# GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL



# LATEST NEWS & UPDATES SUMMER EVENTS

WWW.GREATCHARTSINGLETON-PC.GOV.UK



# **GREAT CHART** with SINGLETON

- Parish Council

## **CONTENTS**

19	Welcome
$\mathbf{U}$	3.4.7

03

04

06

Welcome message & 2025 meeting dates

### **Parish Council News**

Catch up on what has been happening

### **Upcoming Events**

See what we have planned for 2025

### **Local News**

From groups and organisations nearby

#### 07 **Singleton Environment Centre**

Update on recent activities

#### 09 Reporting

What to report and to who

### **Useful Contact Information**

### **Big Lunch**

Details of our annual summer event

### **MEETING DATES 2025**

The Parish Council usually meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00pm to discuss local issues and to make decisions.

The dates and venues for 2025 are 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.greatchartsingletonpc.gov.uk and click on The Council tab.

- Monday 9th June Singleton Village Hall
- Monday 14th July Chilmington Cabin
- Monday 8th September Great Chart Village Hall
- Monday 13th October Singleton Village Hall
- For councillors, companies & local amenities

  Monday 10th November Chilmington Cabin
  - Monday 8th December Great Chart Village Hall

# **WELCOME!**



Chair of Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Welcome to the June edition of our re-vamped newsletter. Following our Annual Parish Meeting in May I am pleased, and honoured, to say I remain as Chairman for the next 12

months. At the Annual Electors Meeting, we presented local resident Hannah Morris with a KALC Community Award for all the voluntary work she has done over recent years, and wish her well in her move to Norfolk.

Also in May, the parish held a lantern making event, in advance of the VE Day celebrations on 8th May. These were placed on the Great Chart War Memorial for the evening, and I was honoured to read the tribute to those that sacrificed so much during the war. The community gathered to celebrate this commemoration of the end of the WWII, the defeat of the Axis forces in Europe. I'd like to thank our staff for organising the lantern making, Reverend Cathie Aldiss for her prayers, and a special mention to Ian Wolverson for all his work organising the event.

Now we are a couple of issues in, I hope you approve of the changes we've made to the newsletter. As always, we welcome your feedback about this, and any other issues that happen in our parish. Get involved! Volunteer to help with

litter-picking or join the team that looks after the Community Fridge. And that just leaves me to wish **NEWSLETTER PAGE 2** everyone a great summer!

# Parish Council News

### **NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER**

As you may have noticed by now, **our newsletter is moving over to it's new bi-monthly arrangement**. This means the news it contains is **more up to date**, and as it is smaller, the **production time is shorter**.

We are still gathering responses from those who wish to continue receiving a hard copy through their letterbox, and those who would prefer to be notified via email or social media. If you haven't filled out the survey yet, please do so on: <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/AF158eBSW4">https://forms.office.com/e/AF158eBSW4</a>
All remaining 2025 editions will be posted to all residents as hard copies, these changes will only affect 2026 editions onwards.

### **FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

A hot topic in the world of local government at the moment is the **Local Government Reorganisation** programme. Kent and Medway are not part of the **Devolution White Paper** priority programme, but the changes taking place under it will come to Kent in the next few years. Please visit Ashford Borough Council's website for more information on interim proposals and timelines.

www.ashford.gov.uk/your-council/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation

### **CHILMINGTON SCHOOLS ACCESS**

The Parish Council continue to push for better access to both the primary and secondary schools on the Chilmington development. This is an issue the Parish Council have been highlighting for over 4 years, but as the opening date for the new site grows nearer, with little evidence of the proposed solutions appearing, it is becoming more urgent. We have created a page on our website to provide any updates we obtain and we encourage you to have a read.

www.greatchartsingletonpc.gov.uk/Chilmington\_49642.aspx

### **SECOND SID**

The parish council have **invested in a second Speed Indicator Device** (SID). Along with the increased ability to monitor speeds across the parish, comes **an extra location**. We can now **monitor the number and speed of vehicles travelling up and down Bucksford Lane**. For more information on SID, take a look at the dedicated pages on our website **www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Speed Indicator Device 30649.aspx** 

### **NEW KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Following the 1st May local elections, Great Chart with Singleton now has two new Kent County Councillors. Cllr Jeremy Eustace (left) will be covering the area of Ashford Rural West, Cllr Nick Wibberley (right) will be covering the area of Ashford South. If you aren't sure which area you belong to, you can find out at <a href="https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx">https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx</a>





### **NEW PARISH STEWARD**

In March, **we welcomed Stuart** as the new full time parish steward, following the departure of the previous steward.

He **lives locally** and has worked in the area previously, he is **also involved in the running of Singleton Village Hall** so some of you may already recognise him.



He has **already made himself useful** by painting park benches, fixing slides, tidying up flowerbeds and transporting all the lanterns for the VE Day event.



**NEWSLETTER PAGE 3** 

# **Recent Events**

### **EASTER TRAIL**

Our Easter Trail took place over the school Easter holidays and gave residents the chance to get out and about across the parish, including the more accessible parts of the Chilmington development.

Completed answer sheets could be given in at our Easter craft event over the Easter Weekend and lucky Ebony won the £25 Amazon voucher.



### **VE DAY 80**

Only a couple of weeks later, we were busy making lanterns ahead of our VE Day 80th Anniversary event. A craft event, with free BBQ, took place on the bank holiday weekend to make Lamp Lights of Peace, ahead of a parade down The Street, to lay the lanterns on the Great Chart War Memorial, where our Chairman and Revd Cathie Aldiss gave tributes and prayers to those lost in WWII.



# **Upcoming Council Events**

### **COLOUR RUN 2025**

The Colour Run is fast approaching. Get ready to run, jog, walk or skip your way around our fun-filled packed course. with obstacles, water sprays, bubbles and **LOTS** colour!

Start in white and finish covered head-to-toe in rainbow colours! Be prepared to get

messy and have an absolute blast!

Last few spaces available:



https://ColourRun2025.eventbrite.co.uk

### **BIG LUNCH 2025**

And as soon as we've washed off all the colour from the run, we will be focussing on biggest annual event, the Big Lunch! Held as usual on the Great Chart Playing Fields, it include all favourites - including the FREE bouncy castles, performances from local

the big lunch SUNDAY **13TH JULY 2025** 11-2:30 **GREAT CHART** PLAYING FIELDS

artists, face painting, food, drink and music from our DJ for the day. There will be activities to take part in, local organisations to speak with and stalls to peruse.

As always, you are more than welcome to come along with your own food, drink and a picnic blanket and make the most of all the activities and beautiful surroundings of the

We will be regularly updating our social media between now and the event, so to join the Facebook event go to www.facebook.com/events/2252847755108905

If you would like to sell, perform, promote or volunteer at our event. please contact paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

# PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENTS



The Parish Council has recently approved its Vision, Mission Statement, and Core Values—key principles that will guide all aspects of our work as we continue to serve the community. These statements provide a clear framework for the council's operations, decision-making, and future planning, ensuring we remain focused, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our residents.

### **Mission Statement**

To cultivate our community through engagement, promoting a safe, green and welcoming environment for all.

### **Vision Statement**

Bringing the community together

# OUR CORE VALUES

Integrity

Inclusivity

**Collaborative** 

Resilient

Value for Money

Sustainable

# **Local News**

### **NEPALESE FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL**

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council are aware that the Great Chart Playing Fields Association plan to be the venue for an outdoor Nepalese Food and Drink Festival on 21st June 2025. This event is not connected with the Parish Council but they have asked that we notify residents of the event as it will generate noise levels similar or above those of the Annual Gurkha Peace Walk which will also be held in June. Residents who will be the most affected will be contacted directly. These events will raise much needed funds for the Association who are looking to make improvements to the venue in 2025. More details can be found their Facebook page www.facebook.com/greatchartplayingfields

### **KENT FIRE AND RESCUE**

### Make the Right Call

This summer, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is urging the public to help save lives and valuable time, by making the right call if they see someone struggling in water.

- For inland water such as in rivers, lakes or other bodies of water - people should call 999 and ask for the "Fire Service".
- For rescues at sea on the coast or seaside call 999 and ask for the "Coastguard".

KFRS Station Manager and water safety expert, James Kitchen, said:

"Every second counts in a water emergency. When someone's in trouble, knowing which emergency service to ask for when you call 999 can be lifesaving. Be as specific as you can—share your exact location, describe what the person is wearing, and keep your eyes on them until help arrives. For inland water emergencies in Kent or Medway, ask for the fire service. If the emergency is at the coast, ask for the Coastguard. Remember, make the right call and you could save a life."

This important message is the driving force behind KFRS' campaign, Make the Right Call, which aims to educate the public and ultimately reduce the number of drownings in the county. From January 2022 to December 2024, KFRS worked on 37 water rescues in Kent, with 29 of these rescues taking place in rivers and canals.

In this same period, Medway was the district with the most water rescues - 16 - followed by Maidstone with seven.

The age group most often requiring water rescue in Kent are 20-29 year-olds.

Runners and walkers, who don't plan to enter the water, are among those at greatest risk, which is why KFRS is also sharing vital survival guidance.

If you end up in the water and cannot swim to safety, you should:

- 1. Stay calm,
- 2. Float on your back,
- 3. Shout for help.

Water rescue hotspots in the country include locations in Maidstone, Medway, and Tonbridge and Malling. KFRS has fitted water safety signs with instructions of who to call at Kent water rescue hotspots.

KFRS is also working with community groups to raise awareness, including rowing clubs, parkrun, and other running events – because recreational river users and waterside runners and walkers are most likely to see someone in the water.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

I will update readers on all the crime trends of concern and the actions I am taking.

As always, the constant battle with SCAMS is with us 365 days a year 24hrs each day. My skills are to try and be ahead of the game and get alerts into the community mainly please do not do anything in a rush and if in doubt DO NOTHING. The target group is us all but sometimes changes slightly,



Peter New peternew1@aol.com 07768437422

for example. OASIS REFORMING FOR 6 NEW CONCERTS is a fantastic "business opportunity" for criminals for bogus tickets, hotel packages and back stage passes. These scams are targeting not the 80-and 90-year-olds but a much younger target age group.

I have met with both the MPs that cover the area on Friday 9th May. Both meetings with the MPs and their teams were very productive and a clear commitment to work together with regular meetings. Every crime trend that you as a council and I work on was discussed with them and how their position can help. Future meetings are planned on a regular basis.

Knowing, when I am out the in the community, that I have your backing, and support cannot be overstated, and I record my most sincere thanks but please never ever think I take that for granted.



2025 has got off to a great start with several fun and engaging events for children and adults at Singleton Environment Centre. The Parish Council continues its long term support of the educational events allowing the Environment Centre to offer a range of activities at good value for money. The Education Team at Singleton Environment Centre is very grateful to the Parish Council for the support they offer. It is so important to us to welcome as many families as possible from the local community and to help them have a fun and engaging time.

During the February half term another popular Nature Stories event was held. This time, the children explored the story 'Aliens Love Underpants'. The children made alien spaceships from recycled materials, created alien masks to wear and designed clay alien models. There was also the chance to take part in pant themed games, including 'Stuff your Pants', 'Fling your Pants' and a '3-legged race' using pants! The children also searched the centre grounds for the missing pants before the aliens could steal them.



The Nature Stories events will continue this year so watch out for upcoming events. They are suitable for children aged 2.5 years plus and a great way for siblings to explore favourite stories together in a truly immersive event.

Also during the February half term, we ran a Book Art event. During this event we discovered another way to reuse old pre-loved books by turning them into pieces of art! Everyone showed lots of patience to fold the pages of their book to create a book hedgehog. They all turned out incredibly well and everyone took home a wonderful hedgehog. We also decorated wooden bookmarks to use in our current reads.

We held a Prosecco with Pyrography event in February with the adult participants learning how to wood burn to create Easter and Spring themed wooden art. Everyone did really well learning how to use the pyrography pens.



The pre-school nature group, Buggin' About, continues to run every Friday in term time. Each week the children explore a different theme through nature craft, related activities, exploration and free play. We also have a mud kitchen and water play available each week. So far this year the Buggin' About-ers have learnt about local wildlife and plants as well as had fun with topics such as World Book Day and Mother's Day. They have also planted their allotment and are looking forward to seeing what edible plants successfully grow.



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



We run con

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

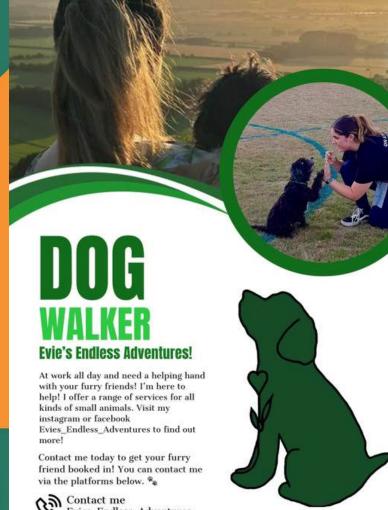
To find out more contact our friendly team

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







Uncomplicated, trustworthy and confidential advice if you are selling or letting

Evies\_Endless\_Adventures

Evies.endless.adventures@outlook.

07547532008

Ashford: 01233 506260 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-aproblem

- 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 The Clerk@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
- Allotment issue
- Fly-tipping
- Noise Nuisance
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Bonfires
- Light 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
- Nuisance dogs
- Lost, stray or stolen 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

# OTHER INFORMATION

# Newsletter Advertising & Articles

This newsletter is produced by Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council and is distributed to every house within our boundary, 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.

Advertising space is available to organisations operating within our area and rates are available on request.

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.

Please contact the Clerk using the contact details in this newsletter for more information.

### **Photo Credits**

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

### **Emergency Contact Details**

<b>9</b>		
William Harvey Hospital	<u>01233 633331</u>	
Environment Agency	<u>03708 506 506</u>	
South East Water	<u>0333 000 0001</u>	
UK Power Networks	0800 029 4285	
Kent Highways Service	<u>03000 418181</u>	
Environment Incident Reporting		
Floodline	0345 988 1188	
National Gas (gas & carbon monoxide		
emergencies)	<u>0800 111 999</u>	
Kent County Council (enquiries & social		
services)	03000 414141	
Samaritans <u>116 123</u> or email jo@samaritans.org		

### **Venue Contact Details**

Singleton Village Hall.....Phone: 07887 575647

Email: bookings@singletonvh.co.uk

Great Chart Village Hall......Phone: <u>07540 299919</u>

Email: greatchartvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

Great Chart Playing Fields Buxford Pavilion

Email: bookings@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk

**Singleton Environment Centre.......Phone:** <u>01233 343885</u> **Email:** centremanager@singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk

**GROUP REPORTS** - in order to reduce the size of our new style newsletter we have **moved to a system** where local groups **only submit an update report if they have something specific to say**. This reduces the work of the volunteers running the groups, and the amount of paper we print on. However, **if you run a club or group in our parish area**, please get in touch if you would like to **tell us about how you provide a service for our residents** and we can see about getting your words in the next edition.

# WE ARE LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY HEROES



Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council runs a **Community Heroes scheme** to support residents who want to do more to keep their local environment clean and pleasant for all to enjoy. Residents will be **provided with all the equipment and information they need** to carry out litter picks, at their leisure, in their chosen areas. For more information, please visit our website; **we look forward to meeting some new heroes soon!** www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Community Heroes 40352.aspx

# **COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION**

### GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCILLORS

**CHILMINGTON WARD** 

Cllr Ian McClintock Phone: <u>07919 278828</u> Email: <u>ian.mcclintock@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</u>

**GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON NORTH WARD** 

Cllr Paul Tate Phone: <u>07850 082023</u> Email: <u>paul.tate@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</u>

SINGLETON EAST WARD

Cllr Steve Herring
Cllr Janet Sullivan
Cllr Malcolm Wiffen
Cllr Dave Gathern

Phone: 01233 616923
Phone: 01233 645400
Phone: 01233 635016
Phone: 01233 633966

Email: steve.herring@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk
Email: malcolm.wiffen@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk
Email: dave.gathern@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

SINGLETON WEST WARD

Cllr Peter Barker
Cllr Geoffrey Darvill
Cllr Yolanda Barker
Cllr Barry Mercer
WASHFORD WARD

Phone: 01233 610241
Phone: 01233 642357
Phone: 01233 610241
Phone: 01233 610241
Phone: 07851 071248

Email: peter.barker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk
Email: yolanda.barker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk
Email: barry.mercer@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk
Email: barry.mercer@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Ash Heathcote Phone: <u>07846 831199</u> Email: <u>ashley.heathcote@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</u>

### PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Aniko Szocs - <u>01233 616923</u> - <u>07354 472314</u> - <u>theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</u>

Paula Cowperthwaite - <u>01233 616923</u> - <u>07354 472313</u> - <u>paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</u>

Parish Stewards (Stuart and Rob) - <a href="mailto:caretaker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk">- caretaker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</a>

### ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS - 01233 331111 - WWW.ASHFORD.GOV.UK

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

Cllr Sally Gathern - Singleton West Ward - <u>01233 633966</u> - <u>sally.gathern@ashford.gov.uk</u>

Cllr Bill Barrett - Singleton East Ward - <u>07449 454044</u> - <u>bill.barrett@ashford.gov.uk</u>

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

### KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS - 03000 414141 - WWW.KENT.GOV.UK

Cllr Nick Wibberley - Ashford South - nick.wibberley@kent.gov.uk

Cllr Jeremy Eustace - Ashford Rural West - jeremy.eustace@kent.gov.uk

### AREA MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MP'S)

Katie Lam - <u>01580 388344</u> - <u>katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk</u> - <u>www.katieforkent.com</u>

Sojan Joseph - <u>01233 515107</u> - <u>sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk</u> - <u>www.sojanjosephmp.com</u>

# CONTACT INFORMATION

We are your local Parish Council and we cover the areas of Great Chart, Singleton and the growing Chilmington Development. We hold monthly Council meetings which are open to the public, and regularly hold community events so you can speak to us in person. However, there are also many other ways to contact us.



CONTACT US





www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk greatchartwithsingletonparishcouncil



<u>gcwspc</u>



theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



