

MONKTON NEWS
FEBRUARY
2021



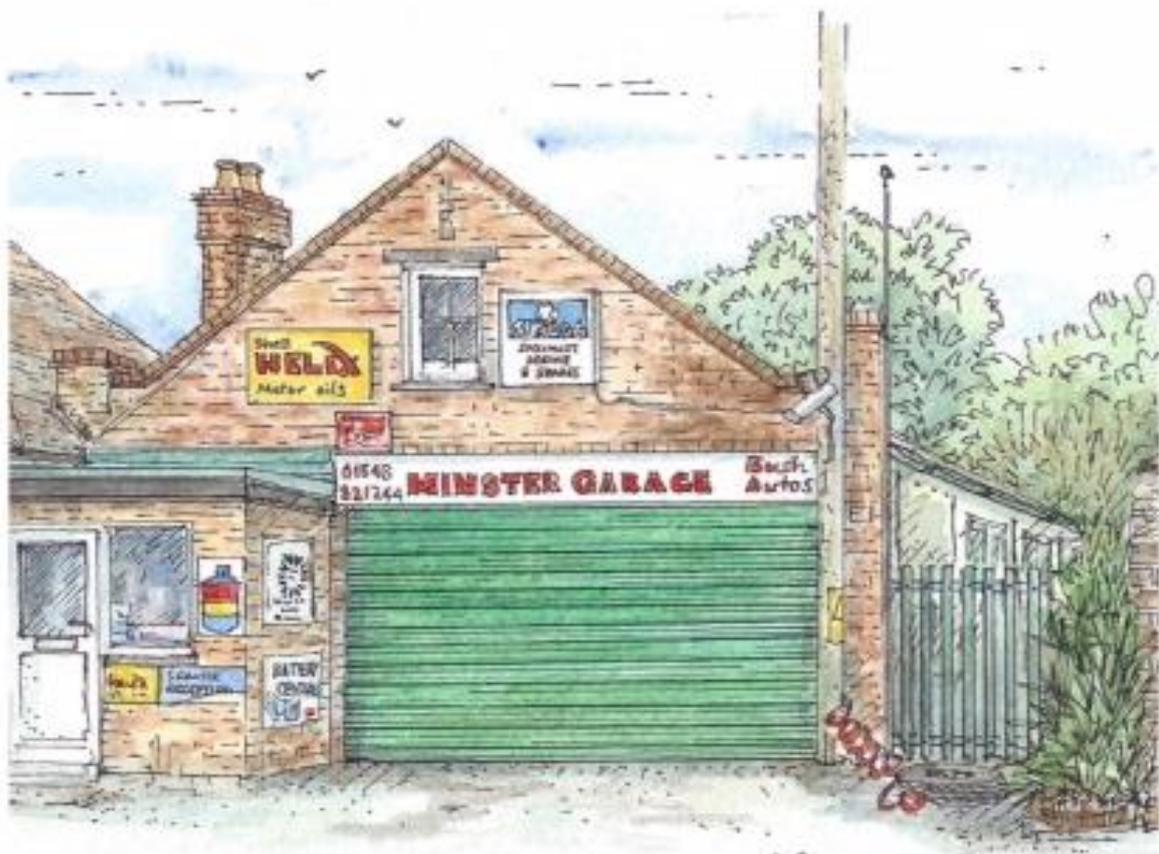
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***“If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,
Winter is gone, and will not come again.”***

This old rhyme refers to 2nd February

WHO DOES WHAT IN MONKTON NEWS?

editor	Denyse Cole	Tel: 01843 821657 denysecole@btinternet.com
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To advertise in Monkton News, contact the editor

Distribution: Kay and Harry Horne. Tel 01843 823849.

'KayHorne' <shudy@talk21.com>

Articles and letters for Monkton News should be sent to the editor as above or 112 Monkton Street, BY THE 19TH OF EACH MONTH.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, MONKTON

We are part of the benefice of the Wantsum Group which comprises the Church of England parishes of Minster, Monkton, St. Nicholas with Serre and Chislet. This benefice also belongs to the SEAMARSH group of parishes

TO ARRANGE BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS AT ST. MARY MAGDALENE PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR

VICAR		Rev. Dr/ Richard Braddy	821250 Richard Braddy <arichard.braddy@gmail.com>	Minster and the benefice
ASSITANT CURATE		Rev. Vicky Coneys	Vicky Coneys <vickysconeys@hotmail.com>	
ASSISTANT CURATE		Rev. Michael Darkins	Michael Darkins <revd.michaeldarkins@gmail.com>	
Group administrator		Matthew Hergest	823347 mjhergest@hotmail.com	For the benefice
RET CLERGY		Rev. Canon Peter Gausden	peter.gausden374@btinternet.com 825374	
METHOIST MINISTER		Rev. Wes Hampton	. . <wesley.hampton@methodist.org.uk>	Monkto n and Thanet

USEFUL NUMBERS AND CONTACTS

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101	MINSTER DOCTORS' SURGERY 821333. Out of hours call 111
CRIME STOPPERS 0800 555 111	SOCIAL SERVICES 860000
COMMUNITY WARDEN – KARL AYLETT 07811 271 299 Karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk	MONKTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL 821394
PCSO Adrian Butterworth. To contact email 56550@kent.pnn.police.uk PCSO Debbie Forsyth 60457@Kent.pnn.police.uk or call 101	MINSTER LIBRARY 03000 413131
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP 07926 842 183 www.domesticabuseservices.org	SOUTHERN WATER to report a leak 0800820999 Supply or sewage problems 0330 303 0368 Billing 0333 200 3015
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 Free and confidential.	Parish clerk – Sara Archer 821989 clerk@monktonparish.co.uk https://www.hugofox.com/community/monkton-parish-council-18134/home/ . WEBSITE
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL – for all department information https://www.thanet.gov.uk PHONE 577000	RSPCA 0300 1234 999
Recycling and fly tipping 577115	LOCAL RETAILERS offering deliveries. Attwells, Touchwood chemists. Brills DIY, Birchington. And others on enquiry. .
Planning 577591	NEAREST POST OFFICE Minster 821291
Dog warden and noise control 577580	MONKTON VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS 821439
QEQM HOSPITAL 225544 Outpatients appointments line 01227 868686	MINOR INJURY UNITS Kent and Canterbury Hospital 24 hrs 01227 864244 Estuary View, Whitstable CT5 3SE 8-8 daily 01227 284301

WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE HALL IN FEBRIARY 2021
THIS INFORMATION IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY, DUE TO COVID
RULES.

DAY	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT
MONDAYS	9.30-10.30 7.30 pm	Exercise dance with Maggie & co Canine behaviour and obedience training classes	Chris Paris Brown MBIPBT 01227 365381
TUESDAYS	2nd Tuesday 3.15pm-5.15pm 7.30pm except third Tuesday. Monkton WI third Tuesday, 7-30 pm	Messy Church Adults Table Tennis Club	Eileen Brackstone 825390 Gilly Brown Penny 821539
WEDNESDAYS	10-12 2-4 pm (school holidays only) 6.00pm	Social morning for retired villagers Family fun afternoon Line dancing all grades beginners upwards	Due to Covid 19, not meeting at present. Theo Loyla
THURSDAYS			
FRIDAYS	4.00pm – 7 PM	La Dance Academy	Laura 07772173424
SATURDAYS	9.00am TO 3 pm	La Dance Academy	Laura 07772173424
SUNDAYS			

Activities will continue in the hall **when permitted following prescribed Covid 19 rules**. This means numbers in groups are restricted. Please contact your organiser for latest news. No party bookings allowed at current time. Contact Pete Mitchell, **821439**

COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS AND REGULATIONS, FEBRUARY 2021

England lockdown restrictions apply. For full information refer to government guidance , keep up to date with local news and media.

COVID 19 VILLAGE HELP HUB

TO VILLAGERS WHO NEED TO SHIELD OR SELF ISOLATE DUE TO COVID 19

if you live in Monkton and need to shield or self-isolate you can call the number below if you need emergency help with: -prescriptions, shopping, mail posting.

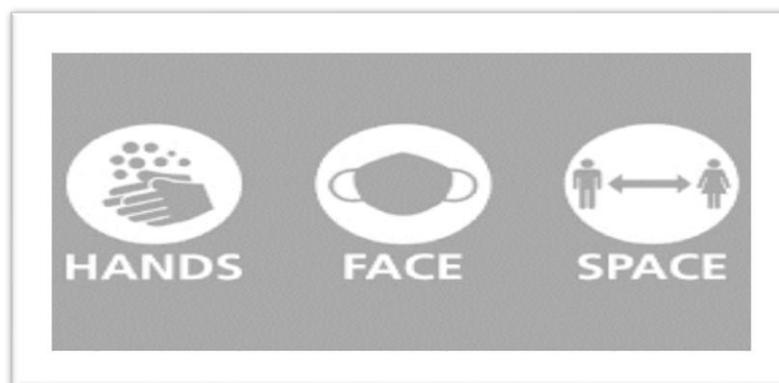
We have local volunteers who are willing to assist you.

Contact Del or Pete on **01843 821439**;

Please only use this number for essential shopping when it cannot be obtained through one of the many home delivery services from local grocery outlets.

Please ring at convenient hours as this service is not available for late night calls

AS THE PANDEMIC GOES ON A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERY ONE WHO CONTINUES TO VOLUNTEER IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES



- **WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY FOR 20 SECONDS**
- **WEAR FACE COVERING WHERE REQUIRED**
 - **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
 - **HELP YOURSELF AND OTHERS**

COVID 19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME.

a large proportion of individuals, aged 80 years and over, have received their second vaccination. Minster surgery is a hub for the vaccinations, so some people from out of our villages may have been invited to attend there

Who will get the vaccine first? According to available info.

Broadly, vaccines are being given to the most vulnerable first, as set out in a list of nine high-priority groups, covering around 30 million people.

They are thought to represent 90-99% of those at risk of dying from Covid-19.

1. Residents in care homes for older adults and their carers
2. 80-year-olds and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. 75-year-olds and over
4. 70-year-olds and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. 65-year-olds and over
6. 16- to 64-year-olds with serious underlying health conditions
7. 60-year-olds and over
8. 55-year-olds and over
9. 50-year-olds and over

SECOND PHASE. Population aged under 50 years of age.

MASS VACCINATION DAY AT MINSTER According to local news 1000 vaccinations were delivered in mid-January to individuals from Minster, Westgate, St. Peter's, Broadstairs and Ash medical practices. Minster is a hub for vaccinations.

From 21st January our Minster surgery was scheduling appointments for the next listed priority group – persons aged 75 and over. Villagers may know of patients aged over 80, who may be housebound, and have not yet received a vaccination. It is most likely these individuals will receive the Astra Zeneca vaccine, which can be transported more easily.

However frustrating and worrying delays may appear please do not ring Minster Surgery for a vaccine appointment. Invitations are by text message, or letter. If you do know of anyone over 80 who has not been notified of their vaccination, then it is appropriate to give details to the surgery. For more current information see surgery news elsewhere in the magazine.

A LOSS TO THE VILLAGES

Monkton News was very sad to learn that Mr. Clive Attwell, of Attwells Newsagents and store, Minster has died. His family had run the newsagents with its treasure trove of cards, sweets, toys and stationery, since the 1950s. We extend sympathy to Mr. Attwell's friends and to Karen and Jenny at the shop.



LOCKDOWN NEWS FROM KENT LIBRARIES

Our services during lockdown Due to the national lockdown, we have made further changes to our services. Although you cannot enter our library buildings at the moment, we will continue to provide:

- Our Select and Collect book bag pick-up service at several libraries. You can order titles that are available at your chosen Select and Collect library for free. You can then pick up your bag of books at the doorway in a Covid-secure way, via pre-booked appointment. Find out more at www.kent.gov.uk/selectandcollect
- Our reservation service for specific titles from the catalogue at a charge of 80p (for doorway collection at a Select and Collect library)
- Digital offers - including e-books, e-audio books, e-magazines, e-newspapers and the online reference library - are always available on our [website](#)
- Online learning resources and free access to a number of Cisco courses
- Ask a Kent Librarian support including 24/7 chat service - www.kent.gov.uk/askakentlibrarian
- Mobile libraries - which will continue the Select and Collect pick-up service
- Our Home Library delivery service to vulnerable customers

- Kent Archives will continue to offer a remote enquiry service while the search room is closed.

Unfortunately, entry to the library for PC/WIFI sessions and bookshelf browsing is suspended until further notice.

We will continue to review our services regularly and keep you up to date with the latest news. Visit www.kent.gov.uk/libs or follow us on social media. Thank you for all your patience and understanding. Stay strong and stay safe, from all of us at Kent Libraries.

Countdown to Christmas 2020

Thank you to everyone who decorated their window for the Countdown to Christmas. They were all amazing and I'm sure the village appreciated the festive display. All the participants put a lot of hard work into their window and with the other fabulous lights & decorations throughout the village, it made Monkton a jollier place!

Many thanks and a (belated) Happy New Year to all.

Gilly O'Neill



MONKTON METHODIST CHURCH

Regretfully due to Covid 19 regulations services cannot be held until further notice.

For details on how to contact Rev. Wes Hampton refer to clergy information page. OR Del and Pete , 821439

THANET FOOD LINK A BIG THANK YOU

In response to our request for Advent food boxes in the last issue of MONKTON NEWS we were delighted to find ten boxes and numerous carrier bags brimming over with Christmas food and essentials in our shed just before the holiday.

We took great pleasure in delivering them to the food link distribution centre at Westwood Cross. The volunteers were in for a very busy time sorting and distributing the donations because it was obvious, we were not the only locals who had thought of those less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas, food and goodies were piled high!

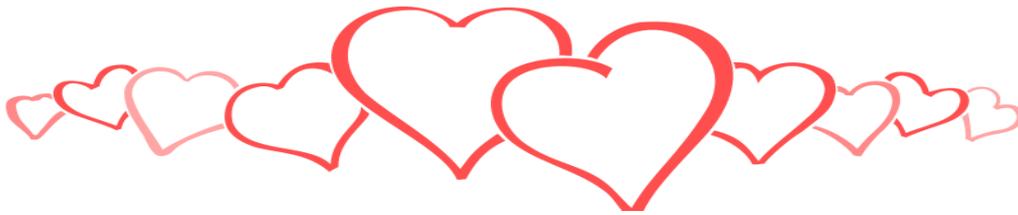
The post-Christmas period is always a very lean time for the food link so we were delighted to be able to pass on a very generous anonymous donation we received this month. This will help keep the stocks of food essentials ticking over.

This is a most unusually difficult time for many families, coping with the virus, loss of jobs etc. So please dig deep knowing we are more than happy for you to drop off into our shed at 153a Monkton Street any non-perishable foods we can take to the link for the less well-off families locally. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity and continued support. Our shed door is always open!!!

Kay and Harry Horne

NOTE

Owing to the current lockdown regulations St. Mary Magdalene Church can only open for a very limited time on a Sunday., 2-4 pm. As a result, we are only able to keep the church food link drop off point available at this time, Sorry for any inconvenience.



Messy Church News

In February we celebrate St. Valentine's day; it is the custom to send people Valentine cards to let them know you love them and are thinking about them.

This got me thinking about the receiving and sending of letters and cards and some of the best post I've received during lockdown. The children at Monkton Primary school have on a couple of occasions sent me cards with pictures that they have drawn and messages of what they are doing during lockdown at school, which I have treasured. In December all the pupils were given a Christmas card to colour and send back to me to decorate the Church with. I received quite a lot back and some had included a handwritten letter thanking me and the messy team for the cards.

I also enjoy getting text messages and notes from my grandchildren. A written message is a joy to receive as it lets a person know that you are thinking about them and have taken the time to write to them.

This Valentine's day you could make a card or write a letter to someone who might be feeling lonely or sad, it would be a wonderful kind act that could boost someone's wellbeing and help them during this very difficult time.

As an aside: did you know that St. Valentine is also the patron saint of bees and beekeepers? I love that as bees are so good for the environment, they work very hard pollinating plants and making delicious honey.

Jesus came into this world to teach us to be loving and kind to each other so this Valentine's day let's see how much love we can send out in the form of the written word.

My love and best wishes
Messy Eileen. Contact 01843 825390 or
eileen.brackstone@googlemail.com

THE KENTISH RECIPE

Del and Pete Mitchell have kindly shared this versatile and easy bake, cake recipe. It is a favorite of theirs made by an American relative every day to satisfy the appetites of her many children, so the family story goes. It really is a very delicious cake to make over and over again. Del advises to use the same size large cup or AVERAGE mug (if you don't own American types) , to measure out ingredients, apart from the butter.

Grandma Rowan's Pound Cake.

ingredients: Half Pound of Butter.

2 Cups of Sugar

3 Cups of Plain Flour

Quarter Spoon of Bicarb Soda

Six Eggs

1 Cup of Sour Cream

One Teaspoon of Vanilla or Almond Essence.

What to do: Cream the Butter and Sugar.

Add the Eggs and Mix Well.

Add Bicarbonated flour.

Add Soured Cream and Mix Well.

Bake in preheated oven at 325 for thirty minutes

Reduce heat to 300 for a further 45 minutes

until cake tester is clean.

Although this cake can be made in a two pound and a one-pound tin we use a nonstick (at least it was thirty years ago) Bundt Tin which needs to be hand hot to turn the cake out.

Del recommends either slicing and serving spread with butter, or serve as a dessert with cream, or ice cream, or anything you like. Delicious!

Grandma Rowan lived in South Georgia, USA and made one every day to help feed her family of nine children

NB. A Bundt tin is a ring-shaped oven ware with a pipe shaped centre piece that produces a ring-shaped cake after baking. This type of tin is widely available from various on line stockists.



MINSTER SURGERY

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2021

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

As we now find ourselves in yet another lockdown, we would like to thank all our patients and friends for their support and understanding, and especially for the generous gifts and donations that have been given throughout this Pandemic. It really does mean a great deal to everyone at the surgery.

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

We are very pleased and proud to announce that Minster Surgery has been chosen as the PCN HUB for the coordination and providing the COVID-19 Vaccine programme.

PCN (Primary Care Network) is a collaboration of several surgeries covering the North and West of Thanet with approximately 50,000 patients between them.

We are currently receiving batches of both the Pfizer (which requires 2 vaccinations) and the AstraZeneca vaccine, which will be used at Care Homes, due to its ease of transportation. To date approximately 60 -70% of the over 80's age group have been vaccinated and aim to have all Care Homes completed by the end of the month.

The next phase will be to offer the vaccine to the 75-79 age group.

Please note: Once you have had your vaccination you may be asked to sit and wait for a few minutes, depending upon your individual circumstances.

Also: You will be invited to have a vaccine so please do **not contact the surgery to** request one as the vaccines are solely dependent on availability.

APPOINTMENTS - OPEN AS USUAL!

We are of course open for business as usual, but if patients request a doctor's appointment, they will receive a telephone triage call first to help the GP to determine the correct need, thus resulting in a safer more Personalized approach.

PLEASE DON'T GET COMPLACENT

Even with the vaccines on the horizon which gives clear hope for the future, the virus is still virulent and we are in a National Lockdown, so please exercise caution, ensure you follow the rules and for everyone's safety:

Remember: “wash Hands”- “Cover Face” - “Make Space” and stay safe!

And above all ‘PROTECT THE NHS’

*** If you have any of the following symptoms:**

New persistent cough; Loss of taste/smell; High temperature -Call 119 - book a test!

*** If you have symptoms, tested positive or self-isolating, PLEASE DO NOT VISIT THE SURGERY but call 111 if you require further assistance.**

*** Want to check on cases in your area? Download the NHS Covid Ap**

*** Returning from abroad? Visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for the latest advice.
For Covid-19 symptoms or book a test call 119**

***REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS**

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you through these difficult times and that all “Repeat Prescription Requests” are submitted to the surgery in good time to allow for the increased demand, both at the surgery and at the various pharmacies, Also, if your “MEDICATION REVIEW” is due during this period please ensure you make an appointment in good time, to avoid further unnecessary delays.

Please note: Medication Reviews will be carried out by telephone
Also: prescriptions can only be delivered to those patients who have been identified as “Shielding”

If you have any concerns please contact the surgery direct on 821333

SURGERY TRAINING DAYS 2021

Please note that the surgery will be closed on the following day from 1.00 pm onwards: Thursday 25th February.

Should you need to see a Doctor outside normal hours please call the “NHS 111 Service” direct by dialing “ 111” where you will receive “non urgent” confidential health advice and information for you and your family.

* For Urgent/Life threatening cases, please dial 999 as normal.

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our next meeting, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact:

Ken Self on 821200 or Jeanne Lawrence on 82104
or email: kenself@me.com

THE PASTORAL LETTER.... Rev. Vicky Coneys writes about the little things that keep us going...

Small Encouragements

At this time of year, we are grateful for the smallest of encouragements. Each day, dawn comes a little earlier, and the evening dusk falls a little later. The birdsong seems a little stronger. There are small signs of growth in our flowerbeds and the hedgerows. Here and there bulbs are poking out already.

Even while the weather remains cold and wintry, these small encouragements give us heart as we look towards the lighter and warmer days ahead.

This has been a very hard winter, for all sorts of reasons, and I am sure that each one of us has found it hard in different ways. But we are thankful too for one another, for this beautiful part of the county that we call home, for many blessings and acts of kindness.

I hope and pray that now and in what lies ahead, each of us may receive and share small encouragements with one another in our villages and communities.

Here are some encouraging words from one of the Psalms, which speak of the beauty of nature, and of joy and gladness. I hope these words encourage you today.

'Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord!

From Psalm 96

With all good wishes, Vicky



MONKTON PARISH COUNCIL

NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021

As we move into 2021, it is of course sad and hugely disappointing that covid has continued to spread and influence the way we live our lives. However, with the local vaccination programme now being rolled out via Minster Surgery, there appears to be a very positive route ahead, where life will gradually return to a form we all know and long for.

In the meantime, please do continue to take care!

HELP IS AVAILABLE IF YOU NEED IT ...

If anyone is in need of help – for shopping, prescriptions, errands etc – please remember help is at hand here in the village.

A simple call to Del & Pete on **821439** is all that is needed, and they will put you in touch with one of the village volunteers who will be only too pleased to help you.

THE PLAY AREA COVID SAFETY GUIDELINES

Here is a reminder for those parents using the Play Area ...

As the Play Area cannot be supervised or regularly sanitised, please follow these guidelines to help safeguard your children and reduce risk:

- * *Max. 10 people inside play area*
- * *Maintain social distancing from other users*
- * *If busy (more than 10 people inside) please wait outside*
- * *Sanitise hands and preferably equipment before and after use*
- * *No eating or drinking allowed*
- * *No dogs*
- * *Do not leave litter (there is a bin outside the Play Area)*

Thank you!

THE FUTURE OF THE PLAY AREA – your input is needed!

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, the Play Area is looking a little tired these days. We are carrying out necessary repairs, but in the longer term, the Parish Council are looking into the possibility of refurbishing the entire area, and installing new equipment.

Before making any decisions, we would like to know what sort of play items you, as parents and users, would like to see, and any other comments you have. Please do let us know by contacting us at: clerk@monktonparish.co.uk

DEVELOPMENT IN MILLERS LANE

Villagers may have noticed some land clearance in Millers Lane behind The Royal Exchange just before Christmas. This included the removal of some trees and was in preparation for the building of a detached house for which planning permission was granted in 2019 (TH/19/0251). **15**

The Parish Council have received a letter from the owner of the land in which he wishes to allay any concerns villagers may have about what is going on – in particular the loss of trees. All of the trees that were removed (some of which were dead or in poor health) were done so with the permission of TDC and the biodiversity officer at KCC. The area will be replanted with over 200 native tree hedging and shrubs, and a planting plan has been agreed with both the Woodland Trust and KCC. In addition, bat boxes and hedgehog boxes will be installed with the aim of returning the area to the wildlife haven it once was.

In the process of clearing the land, much of the debris was mechanically chipped up. However, some was burnt, and the owner has apologised for the fact that the wind changed direction after the bonfire had been lit, sending smoke towards the village.

The Parish Council were pleased to receive this letter and appreciate the fact that the owner wishes to develop the land in a cooperative and environmental way.

PLANNING UPDATE

New Applications:

TH/21/0010 – Walters Hall Barn, Monkton Street
Erection of single storey garage

TH/20/1333 – 151 Monkton Street
Erection of dormer to front elevation to facilitate loft conversion

Existing Applications:

TH/20/0335 – Coles Yard, Monkton Street
Outline application – 20 houses & 20 retirement flats ..
Pending decision

TH/20/1377 – 76 Monkton Street
Retrospective (listed building) application for replacement window to front elevation
Permission granted

TH/19/0409 – Heyhill development (land rear of 96-102 Monkton St)
Outline application – 49 houses ...
Appeal dismissed

The Heyhill decision will be of particular interest to the many villagers who were against the development, and worked alongside the Parish Council in voicing their concerns both to TDC and the Appeal Board.

Full details on all of the above applications can be found on the **planning tracker** on Parish Council website at www.monktonparish.co.uk

HOW THE PLANNING PROCESS WORKS!

Towards the end of last year, interest in one of the larger developments in the village - the Coles Yard application - was renewed via a private leaflet campaign.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council were unable to support the campaign on this occasion. In discussing the issue at the last Parish Council meeting, it was felt there is quite a lot of misunderstanding about the mechanics of planning and that by providing information on how the process works might be helpful in understanding what goes on and why, who carries the weight in decision making and how and when to make valid comments in support or objections.

So this month we are looking at the application process.

Next month we will look at how to support or object to applications.

In both cases, these are very basic, simple guides only.

Further reading can be found on the TDC website, and sites such as CPRE etc.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

- The Developer/Applicant has a 'pre-planning' discussion with TDC Planning Dept where the plans are discussed in principle.
- The Developer/Applicant then submits a formal application for planning permission. In the case of a larger development this is usually for Outline Permission where e.g. design details are agreed at a later stage (as, for example, Heyhill or Coles Yard), but in the case of an individual house or small development, it will be for Full Permission.
- TDC processes the application and designates a Planning Officer to the case.
- Letters advising of the development are then sent to neighbours adjacent to the development site. Public Notices are also posted on lamp posts etc near the site. In both cases there is a deadline of (usually) 21 days for anyone who wishes to make comments to do so. Comments are published on TDC's website under the relevant planning application.
- Although this will be looked at in more detail next month, any comments submitted should be specific. They will only be considered where they relate to the application itself (not what might be preferred on the site) and must relate to planning issues (not personal viewpoints).
- At the same time, TDC will also ask for comments from various statutory consultees, e.g. Kent Highways, Kent Police, The Environment Agency etc. Monkton Parish Council is a statutory consultee and will be contacted for comments at this stage of the process only. As a Parish Council, Monkton's comments should reflect local issues/views and relate to planning guidelines. Although consultees, any comment made by a Parish Council is not a game changer! Parish Councils cannot make decisions regarding the outcome of applications. The role is to convey local opinion, and coordinate Parish support/opposition.
- cont. next page

- Obtaining and processing comments from the statutory consultees can be a lengthy process, particularly, but not exclusively, in larger developments. It may also necessitate the Developer/Applicant making amendments to the plans where problems have been identified by the consultees – e.g. the Highways Dept might

not like the road plans, the Environment Agency may not like aspects of the drainage plans etc.

- When all issues have been resolved as far as is possible, the Case Officer can finally make a decision on whether to approve or refuse the application in line with planning policy, planning law and the comments received.
- In certain cases (for example, large developments, or if a Ward Councillor asks for the Planning Committee to consider a specific application) the Case Officer will give an approval/refusal recommendation to the Planning Committee. In this case the Committee will discuss the application at a public meeting, where three members of the public are permitted to speak (for a maximum of 3 minutes) for and against the development. This often results in a site meeting being called. Here members of the Planning Committee can look at the site and consider the various points of view. If this happens, the application then goes back to the Planning Committee again. Either way, the Planning Committee will make a decision on the application by a show of hands.
- If permission is refused, the Developer/Applicant has the right to appeal against the decision to the Planning Inspectorate. A Planning Inspector will then visit the site, consider the case notes in conjunction with TDC's decision and make a final decision for or against the development. This decision cannot be appealed against. A revised application can, however, be submitted.

We hope you have found the above useful. As we said, it is by no means a fully comprehensive account, but hopefully gives an insight into how the process works, where the decision-making lies and where we all fit into the process.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This will be an internet Zoom meeting

Please contact the Clerk for details.

CLERK: Sara Archer clerk@monktonparish.co.uk



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE,
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St Nicholas: Sunday, Tuesday 2-4pm & Thursday 10am-12pm

Monkton: Sunday 2-4pm

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Daily Newsletter – with reading & reflection and links to other events –

To receive this email: info@wantsumchurches.org

Monday-Friday Morning Prayer 9.00am & Evening Prayer 5.00pm on Facebook Live

Facebook: St Mary's Church, Minster-in-Thamet or St Nicholas at Wade Church

www.wantsumchurches.org

If you wish to talk to someone, need support or would welcome prayer please contact:

Revd Richard Braddy 01843 821250 info@wantsumchurches.org



NATURE NOTES. Dr. Clive Nuttman's feature is taking a break this month, but will be back next month.

YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN IN FEBRUARY.

The very end of January saw the RSPB's big garden bird count. take place, and the results of 1000s of reports from all over the UK will be analysed. We had some very bleak days in the last two weeks of last month and many people would have been putting out food and water for garden birds.

Severe weather can force bird species from the fields to come in to our gardens searching for food. February can be a very hard month for them as most food sources from hedgerows have been eaten. It is tempting to get out and tidy up or prune off all the seed heads and scruffy stuff from your borders when weather, permits, but if you can wait just a while longer all those dried stalks and seed heads are valuable food sources for all kinds of birds.

Even the smallest of gardens can offer up a huge variety of different habitats for wildlife. There are lots of ways we can introduce, or let nature create, a diverse range of homes for nature in our outdoor spaces. It's good to create as many habitats as possible without cramming too much in. Think about the space you have available and focus on making these microhabitats as good as they can be.

You may not even realise that some of the most common unassuming garden features can house thriving worlds of wildlife.

- Lawns for example, especially areas of un-cut long grass, are an important habitat for all sorts of insects and minibeasts, not to mention a feasting ground for the hungry birds which feed on them.
- Borders, filled with flowering plants and shrubs, give nectar rich food to butterflies and bees, as well as seeds, berries and cover for birds and small mammals.

- Trees, and hedges offer roosting and nesting sites for birds and mammals, as well as valuable shelter and cover from the elements and possible predators.
 - Ponds and water features can be a habitat for a huge variety of animal life, from amphibians and invertebrates to bathing garden birds.
 - Even woodpiles, compost and trimmings, the decomposing and discarded off-cuts from your garden, can be incredible places for animals to live, feed and hibernate.
-

Lockdown and village footpaths.

Monkton's network of footpaths are showing the effects of a much increased footfall and pet exercising. Recently there was publicity about the damage to field crops caused by walkers making diversions around waterlogged and muddy sections of pathways. Some of our village paths look as though armies have marched along them due to the very wet conditions in the last few weeks.

Here are some hints to ensure our footpaths are passable and do not "stray" away from their routes in to fields.

- After heavy rain allow a few hours to pass before setting out on a route you know is prone to be muddy.
- the paths to the north of the village are usually more comfortable for walking after wet weather.
- invest in some waterproof footwear
- please remember to pick up after your dog.
- If you are a horse rider choosing a bridle path to exercise your animal will help to prevent deep ruts and hoof marks churning up already soggy footpaths.



THANK YOU

Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband for Monkton – UPDATE & ACTION REQUIRED

There's some good news for those in postcodes **CT12 4LL, CT12 4LH, CT12 4JN, CT12 4JR, CT12 4JW, CT12 4JP, & CT12 4JT** (Phase 1 – Western end of village from approximately Millers Lane to Gore Street), Openreach have now advised us that residents can now register their interest and pledge their Gigabit broadband vouchers.

1. Simply go to <https://www.openreach.com/connect-my-community> and follow the instructions.
2. Choose 'Less than 100Mbps' and enter your postcode - You will then see the page titled '**Gore Street Farm Ultrafast Community Project**' and a pie chart showing progress (*83% at time of writing!*).
3. Pledge your voucher to Openreach by completing the provided form. This process will only take you a few moments and you will be helping to bring 'ultrafast' (up to 1000Mbps) full fibre broadband to the community.

Each residential address in the village will add £1,500 (£3,500 for businesses) to the total voucher fund which will count towards the **£58k** target we need to reach and exceed to ensure Openreach commit to building the new ultrafast broadband infrastructure. For clarity, providing as many residents as possible register and pledge their voucher the project will go ahead with **zero cost to the community**.

For the remainder of the village (phase 2) we're still awaiting an update from Openreach - Further details will be shared once received.

For further information or any queries, please feel free to email James Prince at jamesmprince@gmail.com and he will be happy to help you. You can also join the Facebook group titled "**Full Fibre Ultrafast Broadband for Monkton Village, Kent**".

James Prince

FRIVOLOUS FEBRUARY FACTS



February is mostly recognized for [Valentine's Day](#), flowers, and depending on where you are, being incredibly cold!

Oddly enough, even though it's just another month, there's a lot of history behind this month of romance and [love](#)!

Read on to find out some historical events which occurred in February, as well as how to come to be

the shortest month of the year.

The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst and your flower is a primrose.

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.

The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum" which means purification.

February was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring-cleaning festival. February 2nd is also Candlemas when in historic times churches would bless the years' candles.

The Saxons called February "Sol-monath" which means "cake month" because they would offer cakes to the gods during February.

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.!

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling."

February, March and November always start on the same day of the week.

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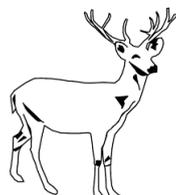
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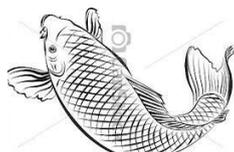
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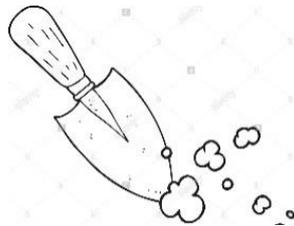
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