

PARISH INFORMATION BOARD

Parish Meeting	Tue 16th Jan	7:00pm	Village Hall
Parish Meeting	Tue 5th Mar	7:00pm	Village Hall

<http://www.boughtonmonchelseapc.org>
Parish Councillors

NORTH WARD

Cllr Nolan Wilde	205016
Cllr David Redfearn	437035 Cllr Roy Garland 924515

SOUTH WARD

Cllr Bill Brown	299760	Cllr Richard Martin	07778 880782
Cllr Andy Humphries	744083	Cllr Rob Edmans	743210
Vice Chair		Cllr Stewart Lane	746240
Cllr Leon Date	745501	Cllr Caroline Jessel	07979770134
Cllr Stephen Munford	741310	Cllr Doug Smith	749077
Cllr Jill Skinner	744098	Cllr Jeremy Green	07921 234893

Parish Clerk 744969 bmpclerk@outlook.com

Borough Councillors

Cllr Stephen Munford (BM South & Chart Sutton)	741310
Cllr Lewis McKenna (BM North Ward)	07515 855296
Cllr Dan Wilkinson (BM North Ward)	07912877623

Kent County Councillor

Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid (Maidstone Rural South)	07919 360000
Cllr Gary Cooke (Maidstone South East)	07803 007031

**Neighbourhood Police Unit and KCC Rural Warden
Police (Non-urgent matters) please call 101**

PC Becca Burns

KCC Warden: Leader 07969 584183

Complied by Councillor Leon Date

Merry Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your
Parish
Council
Newsletter

Dec 23
Issue 83



You are welcome to join us for
Candlelit Carols on the Green
With the Salvation Army Band,
Monday 11th December 2023

7:30 pm

Followed by

Mince Pies : Mulled Wine : Sausage rolls

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council

Dear resident

Welcome to this Winter edition of our Parish Council newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been doing on your behalf and some of our plans for the future.

We are always pleased to hear from you and try to communicate as often as we can via our website, e-mail circle, Facebook page and this twice yearly newsletter. If you have any issue of concern that you think we may be able to help with please get in touch by phone, e-mail or the contact form on our website. We don't monitor community social media pages but if you get in touch directly we will be happy to listen and help, where we can. In situations where we don't have any direct influence we can assist you in lobbying the responsible authority for action, where appropriate.

We are delighted to welcome two new Parish Councillors this year - Jeremy Green and Stewart Lane. Both members have already been hard at work attending meetings and spending time getting up to speed with all Parish Council and BMAT matters. Jeremy and Stewart's enthusiasm, skills and experience are very much appreciated.

A great deal of the Parish Council's time is spent on planning issues, considering both the here and now and the future of our parish. The Parish Council does not approve or refuse planning applications, we are a statutory consultee and comment on the effect applications would have on our residents and the local area, using planning policy to guide us. The majority of planning applications are decided by delegated powers to MBC planning officers however we do have the ability to insist an application is decided by elected members and in this instance we attend the relevant MBC planning meeting to have our say. Parish Council planning meetings are always open to the public and advertised in advance on our website and the Church Street noticeboard. Do come along and make your views known. So far this year we have held 14 planning meetings and commented on 60 planning applications.

Household recycling

Please visit MBC's website for a list of all the items that can be placed in your green recycling bin <https://maidstone.gov.uk/.../pri.../what-can-i-put-in-my-bin>

If you are keen to recycle plastic bags, bread bags and other film and bag type plastics, these can usually be taken to large supermarkets who have dedicated recycling areas for plastic bag and film type plastics.

Police update

This year has seen the introduction of a new policing model in Kent and our PCSO has now been replaced with a warranted beat officer, **PC Becca Burns**. Becca covers a number of parishes but her work in Boughton Monchelsea over the last few months has included issuing community warnings for anti-social behaviour, arresting a moped riding drug dealer and speaking to young thieves about the error of their ways as well as recovering the stolen goods.

Thankfully we have a low rate of crime in the parish but we have direct contact with Becca so please get in touch if you have any concerns. Crimes should obviously continue to be reported via **101 or 999**, as appropriate.

Haste Hill Road allotments – plots available

We have a small number of vacant plots available at our Haste Hill Road allotment site.

A full plot is approximately **25m x 6m costs £35** per year to rent
A half plot costs £20.

If you live in the parish and are interested in taking on an allotment please contact the parish clerk at:

bmpcclerk@outlook.com



Boughton Monchelsea WI

Meet in the village hall every second
Tuesday of the month at 7:30

Each month we have a speaker on a range of
Interesting topics and then get together over
Tea / coffee and biscuits for a chat

We also have a thriving book club and
Craft group which meet every month when possible

If you are interested in joining one of our meetings
Please contact Anthea on

01622 741479 or 07873 136619

Alternatively, just come along to a meeting
When you will be made most welcome.

Dog Owners Polite Reminder

Can we remind everyone to please pick up and dispose of dog waste appropriately.

Please note that any public litter bin can be used for the disposal of dog waste. If you don't pass a bin on your walk please take the bag home with you and dispose of in your black wheelie bin.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Your Parish Council

Another area of our work is highway issues. KCC are the responsible highway authority and have sole responsibility for maintenance of roads throughout the county. We meet regularly with KCC officers and your elected KCC member, Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid, to discuss issues affecting us in Boughton Monchelsea and we lobby for improvements and report faults (which any member of the public can also do <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>)

Programmable flashing lights ('wig wags') have now been installed either side of the pedestrian crossing on Heath Road. These have been funded by the Parish Council and turn on and off automatically at school run times. We also asked KCC to look into further minor improvement works on Heath Road and they have agreed to fund and install the following signs and barriers, which should be in place within the next few months :

- Yellow backed 30mph signs at entry points to the 30 zone
- Additional 30mph repeater signs
- Yellow backed school / crossroads signs either side of the primary school
- Yellow backed crossroads / reduce speed now signs either side of Brishing Lane junction
- Pedestrian guard rail on north side of signal controlled pedestrian crossing next to the primary school (to prevent vehicles from veering on to the path)

We appreciate the above measures will have limited effect on the speed of traffic but we have been pleased to see the Police carrying out regular speed enforcement at the Church Street / Heath Road junction and have requested that this continues. There have been several recent near misses on Heath Road which is of huge concern to us all. Highway safety has always high on our agenda and we will continue to lobby KCC for appropriate action.

We take great pride in the appearance, maintenance and protection of our semi-rural parish and spend much time and effort, with the help of our landscape maintenance contractor, volunteers and our close links with BMAT, to make improvements and keep the parish looking good. BMAT is fortunate enough to have a growing number of regular volunteers and you can find out more about how to get involved by joining the new 'Friends of BMAT' Facebook group which new member, Stewart Lane has recently set up.

We were delighted to meet up with several Langley Park residents over the summer to listen to their compliments and concerns regarding the Langley Park country park. This area is managed by Taylor Wimpey's management company but we were pleased to facilitate a meeting with MBC and Taylor Wimpey to agree pathway improvements around the site and grass cutting around the communal bench areas. The country park is a lovely natural open space for residents and wildlife alike and we have been very happy to help out. If there are any further issues please feel free to give us a call.

We are often not directly responsible for issues with a negative effect on the parish but we work closely with the relevant authorities and regularly report problems such as fly tipping and overgrown footpaths. As a resident, you can play your part by using the relevant online portals to report issues as and when they arise. For public rights of way, use

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

For fly tipping report via <https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/street-care-and-cleaning/litter,-bins-and-street-sweeping/report-fly-tipping>.

With fly tipping in particular, MBC act very quickly to remove dumped material and have been successful in finding and prosecuting offenders.

Many of you will already have been enjoying the delicious coffee and refreshments available at Bocton Café within the village hall.

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA SCOUT GROUP

CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday 16th December 2023
7.00 p.m.

Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall

Teams of 6
£7.50 per person incl.

Mince Pies
&
Mulled Wine



Please bring your own Food, Drinks & Glasses if you would like to

There will be a Cake Stall and a

RAFFLE

To book a table please contact

rafuller@blueyonder.co.uk

or Andi on 07545 493931

Raising funds for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Squirrels
in Boughton Monchelsea and supporting

SCOUTING IN THE GAMBIA, especially the
Upper River regions, furthest from the
tourist areas on the coast, where there are
the highest levels of poverty



Speedwatch

We have long been concerned about the speed of traffic on Heath Road and despite the speed limit reduction from 40 to 30mph, we are disappointed that some motorists continue to drive far too fast. We notice the Police have been carrying out some enforcement in the area and we are looking for new Speedwatch volunteers so we can record details of speeding vehicles (we have an approved Speedwatch site close to the primary school).

As part of Speedwatch, registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted - initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders will receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow, based on collated evidence.

If you would be interested in helping out as a Speedwatch volunteer please e-mail the parish clerk bmpcclerk@outlook.com and register using the link below. Any amount of time you could give would be much appreciated, even an hour a month would make a real difference. Go to website <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org>

Page 1 Choose the option Register - read

Page 2 Choose option Join Existing Group - Select Kent from Dropdown box - then select Continue -

Page 3 Select YA Maidstone from Dropdown box - then select Continue -

Page 4 Select Boughton Monchelsea from Dropdown box - then select Continue -

Page 5 Read Terms and conditions - Complete box confirming you have read Ts&Cs select Register Me -

Page 6 The Speedwatch centre will then send an email to verify your email address along with other instructions.

Cllr Leon Date

Although the dark evenings and cold weather are here to stay for the next few months, the new café provides a friendly respite from the elements so please continue to support café manager, Sonja and her efforts - every cup of coffee you buy means the village hall committee can keep hall hire costs to a minimum, benefitting all of us living in the parish.

Nearing the end of my report (and thank you for getting this far!) I must mention that we are always very pleased to offer financial support to various parish organisations. Earlier this year we awarded grants to Boughton Monchelsea Scout group, Brownies, Baby & Toddler group, Helping Hands, Friendship Circle and WI. If you run a not for profit community organisation in Boughton Monchelsea and are in need of a small grant please get in touch so we can consider your request

With the cold, wet weather now upon us, most of our allotment tenants have 'put their plots to bed' for the Winter but we do have a number of vacant plots available at our Haste Hill Road site. If you live in the parish and are interested in leasing an allotment please contact the parish clerk for more information bmpcclerk@outlook.com. We also have an allotment site at Langley Park. This site is currently full but please contact the clerk to join the waiting list.

We are very grateful to all our regular litter pickers who do a great job of keeping the parish clean and tidy. In fact they are doing such a fantastic job that there was no need for our traditional autumn litter pick this year. Thank you so much and keep up the good work!

Bus operator, Nu Venture have advised that they are now running a number 14 shoppers bus to and from Maidstone town centre each weekday, leaving Boughton Monchelsea at 11.10am and returning from Maidstone at 1.40pm. This is in addition to the Wednesday only number 59 shoppers bus which leaves Boughton Monchelsea at 10.08am. This service can only continue with residents' support so, as the saying goes, 'use it or lose it!'

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope to see as many of you as possible at Carols on the Green on Monday 11th December at 7.30pm. As usual we will be joined by the Salvation Army band and there will be plenty of refreshments to go round! Do come along if you can, it's the start of our Christmas countdown here at the Parish Council.

Council Chairman Steve Munford

Litter Quitter News

Boughton Monchelsea parish is blessed with more than 30 volunteers who pick up other people's rubbish on a regular basis. Almost every street in the parish is regularly picked keeping it looking beautiful and helping protect nature. It has been such a success that we no longer need the community litter pick which we have done every spring and autumn for many years. The primary schools are doing their bit with education of children and encouraging them to pick up in the school grounds.

Less good news is that fly tipping remains a serious problem in the parish, often blocking roads and leaving behind lots of small pieces of rubbish which are very hard work to collect. Any thoughts on how to tackle this effectively would be welcome.

We also still need litter volunteers for Langley Park and the surrounding woodland.

Maidstone Borough Council supply bags and the parish council supply free litter pickers and high viz jackets for volunteers. They also collect the green litter bags to save too much carrying. If you would like to join the Litter Quitters please email Caroline on cjessel@btinternet.com.

A massive thank you from everyone to all the regular volunteers. We dream of a day when this job will be unnecessary as no-one will chuck litter!

Cllr Caroline Jessel

Christmas in Boughton Monchelsea All Warmly Welcome



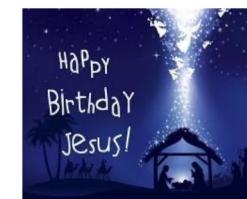
**Messy Church 3.00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday 9th December
@ St Peter's Church**



**Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 17th December @ 4pm**



Sorry - No Midnight Service this year



**Christmas Morning
8:00 Holy Communion (BCP)
10:15 am Family Service**





Church News

St Peter's Church and Junction were very sorry to say goodbye to our vicar, Phil Goodey, in September. We are now in a vacancy, meaning we do not have a vicar. We are keeping services and other activities going as usual, thanks to our own church members and the support of other local ministers.



Please contact the church office as usual if you want to ask for a wedding, funeral or baptism. We will do our best to accommodate you, but please be patient with us.

It costs around £120,000 per year to run the church and pay the parish share set by Canterbury diocese for a full-time vicar. We are currently unable to afford this.

We will be holding a public meeting next year to seek the views of the community on what you want from the church as we look to try and appoint somebody. Please come and give your views on what you want from us. Maybe there are things you can do to help us too, including giving to help us meet our financial commitments. Perhaps with your help we might be able to continue to have a full-time vicar as we have had for over 700 years.

Carol Parry and Peter Holland, Churchwardens

Church Office: Phone: 01622 743321

Email: stpeters.church@icloud.com

Bank Details: Boughton Monchelsea PCC

Sort code: 20-54-11 Account number: 60459003



THE RIFGINS TRUST

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

As a small trust we can help individuals or organisations that we feel would benefit by paying for items, services or facilities in order to reduce their stress, hardship, poverty and help with their needs.



We can contribute towards transport costs to hospital when dealing with illness or long term disability



We can assist with rent or mortgage payments when times are difficult



We can pay for families to receive help with child therapy and emotional trauma



We can help with food vouchers in times of hardship following job loss / illness



We can help with purchasing household goods such as fridges, microwaves & washing machines



Assistance with Home security products, locks & Alarm systems



We can pay towards the cost of installing home aids such as wet rooms and stairlifts



We can assist with retraining grants and the cost of purchasing electronic goods

If you would like more details please email

rifginstrust@gmail.com

All applications will be treated with the utmost confidentiality

Friends of BMAT

The new Friends of BMAT Facebook group is now up and running. Anyone can join and post and Stewart has kindly agreed to act as group admin. Have a look and join when you get a minute

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/872669820848365>

Or scan the QR code below



Neighbourhood Watch

Boughton Monchelsea has an existing neighbourhood watch scheme.

NHW is the largest voluntary organisation in the UK – one in seven homes across the country is a member of a scheme and they work with each other and the Police to reduce crime and the fear of crime in their community.

NHW provides a way for local people to play an important part in addressing this balance and making their communities safer. NHW can help reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime, improve communications between residents & the Police and get residents working together to increase the sense of community spirit

You can help support the scheme by joining the Facebook page (Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Watch)

Cllr Nolan Wilde

Village Email Circle—Keep Up to Date!

Keep abreast of news and events affecting the Parish from the convenience of your armchair. Many people already are, so why not join them?

The village email circle has now been running for several years and from feedback, I believe members have been finding it very useful.

To keep everyone's identity secure, messages are sent to me and everyone in the circle blind copied in. So the only email address shown is mine, you do not see any others.

If you would like more details, please email the Parish Clerk .who will send you a form to comply with data protection regulations
bmpcclerk@outlook.com

Or please give me a call on **01622 745501** to find out more

Clir Leon Date

