

PARISH INFORMATION BOARD

Parish Meeting	Tue 2nd May	7:00pm	Village Hall
Parish Meeting	Tue 4th July	7:00pm	Village Hall
Parish Meeting	Tue 5th Sept	7:00pm	Village Hall
Parish Meeting	Tue 7th Nov	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 (Vice Chair)	744083		
Cllr Leon Date	745501	Cllr Caroline Jessel	07979770134
Cllr Stephen Munford (Chair)	741310	Cllr Doug Smith (Plan Comm Chair)	749077
Cllr Jill Skinner	744098	Cllr Rob Edmans	743210

Borough Councillors

Cllr Stephen Munford (BM South & Chart Sutton)	741310		
Cllr Lewis McKenna (BM North Ward)		07515855296	
Cllr Dan Wilkinson (BM North Ward)		07912 877623	

Kent County Councillor

Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid (Maidstone Rural South)	07919 360000		
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Neighbourhood Police Unit and KCC Rural Warden

Police (Non-urgent matters) please call 101

PCSO Peter Gardner

KCC Rural Warden: Sandra Edmonds 07969 584183

Compiled by Councillor Leon Date

Parish Council Newsletter

April 2023
Issue No. 82



YOU are all Invited to

Your

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall
Church Street**

TUESDAY 16th MAY 2023 at 7:00pm

Buffet, Wine & Soft Drinks will be provided

Speakers include:

Address from the Parish Council Chairman - Steve Munford

Address by Borough & County Councillors

A Presentation on the village hall remodelling works

Presentations from parish organisations

Open Forum—your chance to ask questions

We look forward to seeing you there!

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council

Chairman's update - April 2023

Dear resident

Welcome to this Spring 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.

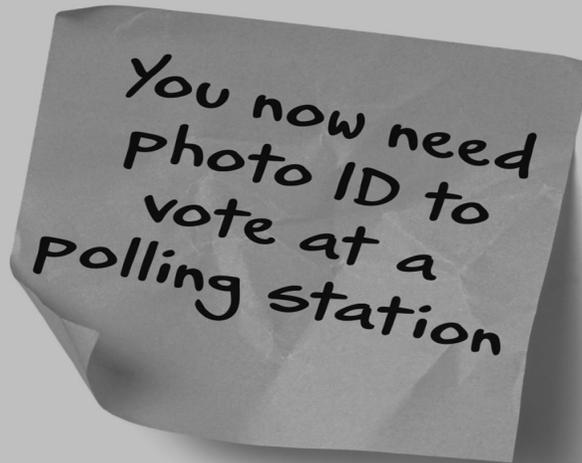
We are always pleased to hear from you and try to communicate as often as we can via our website, e-mail circle, Facebook page and this twice yearly newsletter. If you have any issue of concern that you think we may be able to help with please get in touch by phone, e-mail or the contact form on our 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.

It is with great sadness we report the sudden passing of one of our Parish Councillors, Rowland Roome at the end of last year. In his short time as a Parish Councillor, Rowland made a big difference, particularly his efforts in helping the Parish Council address the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

We now have three vacancies on the Parish Council as Cllrs Helen Stevens and Ian Ellis have both recently resigned. Helen has now moved from Boughton Monchelsea but during her time with us she made a huge contribution, especially her engagement with residents in the north ward of the parish and her enthusiastic, hands on approach to maintaining and improving the Furfield Park open space. We wish Helen all the best for the future.

Ian Ellis has devoted more than 40 years of his life to the Parish Council and it is difficult to find words to express our gratitude for all his hard work and incredible dedication. Ian did a long stint as Parish Council Chairman and was also a Maidstone Borough Councillor for many years. He was also instrumental in the formation of BMAT (Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust), taking on the role of Chairman until his recent retirement. Ian's commitment, knowledge, enthusiasm and vast array of skills will be greatly missed and we wish him all the very best.

The Electoral Commission



No ID? You can apply for free voter ID
Find out more at
electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID
or call 0800 328 0280



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Boughton Monchelsea WI
meet in the village hall every second
Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Each month we have a speaker on a range of interesting topics and a get together over tea/coffee and biscuits for a chat.

We also have a thriving book club, lunch 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

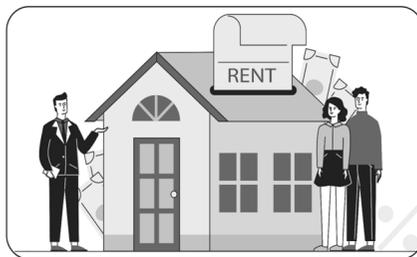
THE RIFGINS TRUST

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



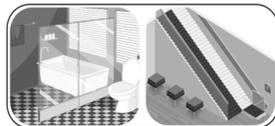
We can help with food vouchers in times of hardship following job loss / illness



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

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please come along to our Annual Parish Meeting in the village hall on Tuesday 16th May where you can meet existing Councillors and find out more about the role.

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.

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>)

As advised in the last newsletter we now have agreement from KCC to install programmable flashing lights either side of the pedestrian crossing on Heath Road which will turn on and off automatically at school run times. We hope to install these lights later this year. KCC are also looking into further minor improvement works on Heath Road including additional painted speed limit roundels and visual narrowing at the entry points to the 30mph limit. We appreciate these measures will have limited effect on the speed of traffic but we have been pleased to see the Police carrying out speed enforcement several times over the last few months. There have been several recent accidents on Heath Road which concerns us all. Highway safety has always been high on our agenda but we will be meeting with KCC very soon to discuss what else can reasonably be done.

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. Our projects are often small and would otherwise go unnoticed – we recently installed a bench on the new accessible path along Green Lane, somewhere new to sit and enjoy our lovely village.

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.

2022 saw the passing of our dear Queen and we have recently installed a memorial bench on the village green. We have also agreed to rename the rec the 'Queen Elizabeth II recreation ground' and will be holding a naming ceremony on 1st July 2023, the day of the village fete. We would be very happy to consider further benches in the north part of the parish so please get in touch if you have any ideas.

With the arrival of Spring our allotment plot holders are already hard at work digging and planting. We have recently installed two new water tanks at our Langley Park allotment site to make watering easier over the summer months. We also have an allotment site in the village, off Haste Hill Road. There are no vacant plots at either site at the moment but if you live in the parish of Boughton Monchelsea and would like to join the waiting list please contact the parish clerk

bmpcclerk@outlook.com

Another sign of Spring is our next community litter pick which will take place on Saturday 29th April at 10am, meeting outside the village hall. Please come along and help if you can. We are very grateful to all our

Greensand Games Club

Come along free of charge every Monday from 11am -1pm at the Greensand Health Centre, Heath Road, Linton ME17 4NU to play a board game and get to know your opponents! Open to all local residents and patients. Games provided.

Veterans Support Group.

Meets at the Greenery Cafe, Greensand Health Centre, Heath Road, Linton ME17 4NU the first Tuesday of each month between 11-1pm. Come along, free of charge for mutual support, comradeship and great coffee & cake!

Addiction support

Are you or someone you care about misusing drugs or alcohol? We run a support group every third Thursday of each month at Greensand Health Centre, Heath Road, Linton ME17 4NU between 1-2.30pm. We are here to listen if you want to talk. We can provide information on what support is available to you and your family.

Bumps and Babies Social Group

A chance to connect with other parents in the community every Monday and Wednesday 12.45pm - 2.15pm at Greensand Health Centre, Heath Road, Linton ME17 4NU.

At all of our groups, The Greenery Cafe will be open serving drinks, snacks and cake. For more information, pop in and speak to Tracy or Jill in the Cafe between 8.30am -2.30pm Monday to Friday or telephone Lyndsey on 01622 742957.

For more information about social prescribing visit -

www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/social-prescribing



Personalised Care & Social Prescribing at Greensand Health Centre

Greensand Health Centre, Linton now have a dedicated Social Prescribing Team.

Many things can affect your health and wellbeing. GPs tell us that a lot of people visit them feeling isolated or lonely. Or they might be stressed out by work, money and housing problems. Sometimes it's the stress of managing different long-term conditions.

A Social Prescribing Link Worker is somebody who will work with you on a one to one basis to listen to what really matters to you and to then help put you in touch with the right people and activities that can help you to feel better.

As part of our work, we have set up a number of free support and social groups for the community to access and enjoy.

Greensand Book Club

Join us free of charge every Wednesday from 11am -1pm at the Greensand Health Centre, Heath Road, Linton ME17 4NU to share your latest read, discuss and inspire others or just listen. Open to all local residents and patients. Books provided.

Greensand Knit and Natter Social Group

Open to all local residents and patients free of charge. All ages and abilities welcome. Needles, wool and patterns provided or bring along your own projects and see what others are working on. It's a great way to get inspired, pick-up tips and make new friends. Join us every Thursday from 10am -12 noon at the Greensand Health Centre, Heath Road, Linton ME17 4NU.

regular litter pickers who do such a good job of keeping the parish as rubbish free as possible and we would like to give a special mention and thank you to a group of Langley Park residents who have been hard at work litter picking where they live.

We hope lots of you will be attending the Coronation event on the village recreation ground on Sunday 7th May. This event has been organised by a small group of hard working residents, not the Parish Council and it's going to be a lovely way for the community to come together and celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The Parish Council has given a grant towards the cost of free celebration mugs for each child under 16 who attends and you can read more about the event later on in the newsletter.

On a final note I would like to encourage you to come along to our Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 16th May. We would particularly like to meet new residents from Langley Park, Lyewood, Boughton Park and Genn Park so do come along and say hello. There will be updates from your Borough and County Councillors and parish organisations as well as a presentation on the village hall energy efficiency improvements and remodelling work. Refreshments will be provided and Councillors will be available to speak to on the night.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Cllr Steve Munford

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 was reintroduced several years ago. Messages are sent to everyone in the circle via myself and I ensure that the only email address shown is yours and mine, you do not see any others. If you would like to join please email the Parish Clerk

bmpcclerk@outlook.com

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 have been lucky enough to recruit a number of new Speedwatch volunteers over the last year and we are very grateful to all our volunteers for their time and help, the group has racked up a total 336 speeders reported to the police.

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 joining the Boughton Monchelsea Speedwatch team please e-mail the parish clerk bmpcclerk@outlook.com Any amount of time you could give would be much appreciated, even an hour a month would make a real difference.

Cllr Leon Date



Enjoy a great afternoon at your
Village Fete & Dog Show
SATURDAY 12pm 1st JULY
Village Hall & Recreation Ground
Craft Stalls: Beer tent Cream teas:
Games & much more
For more information! Please visit
f Boughton Monchelsea village fete & dog show

Boughton Monchelsea village hall remodelling project

The village hall was built in the 1970s before climate change and renewable energy were topics of conversation. The building was poorly insulated, equating to high energy bills and the layout was not conducive to current and future needs. At present we have a large main hall and a smaller committee room, a large unused stage area and poorly arranged storage. The remodelling project will address all these issues to give a more flexible, usable space, improved energy efficiency and other features to increase income, ensuring the hall is self-sufficient into the future.

Building work has already started and completed work includes a new, insulated roof, cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps, roof mounted solar panels with battery storage, electric heaters and improved wifi. The remaining scope for phase 1 includes building a small extension to house childrens toilets and a new store room, to be accessed from the main hall. In addition, a partition wall has been constructed in the committee room to form a new entrance for all hirers. The existing kitchen and foyer areas are also being remodelled to retain a kitchen for the main hall as well as creating a self-contained coffee shop area complete with its own small kitchen.

Future phases will include reconfiguration of the internal space at the rear of the hall to provide additional rooms for hire, improvements to the external façade and car park works.

We look forward to sharing more details of the remodelling work as the project proceeds.



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA COMMUNITY CHOIR
Summer Concert
Saturday 17th June 2023
starting at 7.30pm
Tickets £7.50
Available from lo.bmcc@gmail.com

Boughton Monchelsea allotments

The Parish Council has two allotment sites – one off Haste Hill Road, the other at Langley Park. If you live in the parish and would like to join the waiting list for either site please contact the parish clerk bmpcclerk@outlook.com

Wednesday shopper bus

Nu-Venture are operating a limited day time bus service on Wednesdays only, as detailed below. This service gives shoppers approximately 2 hours in Maidstone town centre before returning to Boughton Monchelsea and beyond.

The Wednesday only number 59 service leaves Boughton Monchelsea at 10.06am (near the Cock Inn), arriving in Maidstone town centre at 10.33am. The bus leaves Maidstone town centre (King Street L2 stop) at 1.00pm, arriving in Boughton Monchelsea at 1.25pm.

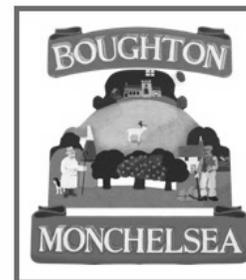
The route through Boughton Monchelsea is via Green Lane, Church Street and Heath Road to Linton crossroads, turning into Loose Road and on into Maidstone.

The number 89 'school' bus continues as usual, term time only.

Queen's Green Canopy

Tree planting sites at Lyewood, Firmins Field, Walk Meadow and Salts Wood have been successfully registered as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy', a living legacy in honour of Queen Elizabeth II with over three million trees planted across the UK. You can view photos of all the sites at

www.queensgreencanopy.org/map



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA CORONATION BIG LUNCH A Village Celebration Sunday 7th May, 2023

Join us at any point throughout the day

10.15am – Coronation Service at St. Peter's Church
11.30am – Parade of Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses

Assemble from 11.15 in Boughton Monchelsea Place Courtyard adjacent St. Peter's Church on Church Hill.

Parade to Boughton Monchelsea Recreation Ground.

**12 noon to 4.00pm – Village "Street Party"
at the Recreation Ground**

Bring your own picnic, chairs, tables, blankets, gazebos, games etc.
- we'll provide free tea, coffee and juice!!

Music throughout the afternoon, including some community singing.

Please remember dogs are not permitted on the recreation ground.

Free safe parking (weather permitting) on the recreation ground.

Entry by voluntary contribution (suggested donation £1.00 per adult).

Whilst we will formally close the event at 4.00pm,

you are most welcome to remain on the recreation ground to continue your celebrations.

Free Celebration Mug

for each child under 16 who attends the event

No preregistration required – collection on the day.

Limited supply - first come first served.

Any surplus mugs available for sale at £4.00 on the day.



Boughton Monchelsea Coronation Big Lunch



BMAT progress on Nature Recovery

BMAT owns land around the parish and is working hard to provide improved habitat for nature and for the community to enjoy. We have had great support from volunteers who have joined Friends of BMAT and this year have joined several work parties to help create a fabulous future for our area. In addition to helping reverse the decline in biodiversity, good habitat creation enables us to fight climate change through a process known as carbon sequestration. Additional benefits include cleaner air, flood and drought protection and help for agriculture though boosting pollinator numbers.

Salts Wood

The trees are doing very well and the regular presence of buzzards and kestrels indicates healthy small mammal populations living in the wood.

Volunteers regularly restore tree supports that have been damaged, pick up litter and ensure bramble encroachment is reduced.

Firmins Field

This year gaps in the trees have been in filled with a selection of native species, the wildflower area has been raked and a new hedgerow has been planted. We aim to be on top of the thistles with an earlier cut and regular maintenance around the trees this year.

Walk Meadow

There is a lovely new pond which needed restoration following unfortunate vandalism. Local volunteers are keeping the area litter free and ensuring the trees are given the best opportunity to thrive. The wildflower area is ready to start blooming and will hopefully be as magnificent as last year.

Lyewood

The footpath running parallel to Green Lane is open and well used. Residents joined two big tree planting events and over 600 trees have been planted. This year the site will be prepared for a species rich meadow with ponds and further walking areas.

Furfield Park

The open space continues to be enjoyed by many residents and this large area provides rich habitat for wildlife

Langley Park

Residents organised a major litter pick and the country park has recently been transferred to BMAT ownership although a management company is responsible for its maintenance.

BMAT would like to thank all the volunteers and Friends of BMAT who are helping nature recover in these lovely areas, providing opportunities for residents to enjoy the countryside and gain many health benefits from exercise, fresh air and nature connection. For a map of all the BMAT owned public open space please visit our website

www.boughtonmonchelseapc.org.uk/community/boughton-monchelsea-parish-council-15019/overview/

Boughton Monchelsea Place

Mr and Mrs Kendrick at Boughton Monchelsea Place will again be happy for local walkers to enjoy the bluebells and birdsong along their drive for two weeks, from **1st May to 14th May**. The gates will be open at the following times: Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10am to 6pm; Tuesday to Friday from 7.30am to 5.30pm. The gardens will also be open for charity (the National Gardens Scheme) on Sunday 14th May and Sunday 25th June, from 2pm until 5.30pm; entry to the gardens on these days will be £5 for adults and £1 for children, payable in cash only. All are welcome to the garden open days, though, sorry, no dogs are allowed in the gardens

Marice and Dominic Kendrick