

PARISH INFORMATION BOARD

Future Parish Council Meetings : 2nd July : 3rd Sept : 5th Nov

<http://www.boughtonmonchelseapc.org>

Parish Clerk - bmpclerk@outlook.com or 01622 744969

Parish Councillors

South Ward (Village & Rural Areas of the Parish)

Cllr Leon Date 745501

Cllr Rob Edmans 743210

Cllr Andy Humphreys 744083

Cllr Richard Martin 07778880782

Cllr Steve Munford 7414310

David Redfearn 437035

Doug Smith 749077

North Ward (Furfield Park & Roman Way)

Cllr Timothy Oladmeji
07956 951180

Cllr Ettienne Steyl
07809765436

Joywood Ward

Cllr Anne Dawes 299052

Cllr Roy Garland 924515

Langley Park Ward

Cllr Jeremy Green Cllr
07921 234893

Cllr Caroline Jessel 741647

Borough Councillors

Cllr Anne Dawes (BM South & Chart Sutton) & Joywood
annedawes@maidstone.gov.uk

Cllr Hilary Jenkins & Cllr Dan Wilkinson (Furfield Park & Roman Way)
HilaryJenkins-Baldock@maidstone.gov.uk &
danwilkinson@maidstone.gov.uk

Cllr Gary Cooke & Cllr Gill Fort (Langley Park)
GaryCooke@maidstone.gov.uk & gillfort@maidstone.gov.uk

Cllr Brian Clark & Cllr Simon Wales (Hubbards Lane)
brianclark@maidstone.gov.uk & SimonWales@maidstone.gov.uk

Kent County Councillor

Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid 07919 360000
(Maidstone Rural South)

Police (Non-urgent matters) please call 101

PC Harry Greenfield contact 101

KCC Rural Warden: Sandra Edmonds 07969 584183

Parish Council Newsletter

April 2024
Issue No. 84



YOU are all Invited to

Your

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall
Church Street**

TUESDAY 21st MAY 2024 at 7:00pm

Free Buffet, Wine & Soft Drinks will be provided

Come along to meet your

Parish Councillors

County Councillor

Hear from all our Parish Organisations

Open Forum—your chance to ask questions

We look forward to seeing you there!

A Message from Steve Munford

As many of you are aware I announced last year that I would not be standing for MBC Ward Councillor for Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton at this year's elections. This also denied me the opportunity to take on the role of Deputy Mayor of Maidstone this year and Mayor of Maidstone the following year. This decision was made purely on my health and medical advice.

Being the fourth generation of my family to live in Boughton Monchelsea it has been an absolute honour for me to represent my community as the MBC Ward councillor for the past 12 years. I would like to thank you for the support and help you have given me over this time.

I would like to highlight some of my challenges and achievements at Borough level during my time. On election I was faced with MBC preparing the local plan for 18,600 extra homes, additionally we had been selected as an area for development. This was later adopted as the 2017 local plan. Looking around now, in comparison to other villages also selected for development, I was able to keep the amount of development and therefore the impact on our rural surrounding, to a minimum. One thing I was able to achieve over others was, as well as the housing, I secured the provision of large areas of freehold land (approximately 50 acres). This is now part of BMAT's landholding for use as public open space etc.

This was quickly followed by a review of the local Plan 2017 where another 6,000 + homes had to be allocated. This time I was able to reduce our status to a Smaller Village which carried a target of 30 homes between now and 2038. This has already been allocated and again we have approximately 56 acres of land coming across to BMAT for public open space.

Those parts of the parish within the urban area in the north of the parish will see some development allocated as part of the review, but I have achieved the establishment of a country park of some 60 acres to the south of Park Wood, the freehold of which will go to BMAT. The review will shortly be adopted into policy.



Church News

While we are in the process of trying to find a new vicar for Boughton Monchelsea, our regular services continue as follows:

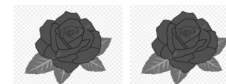
1st & 3rd Sunday: 10.15 am Holy Communion
2nd & 4th Sunday: 8.00 am Holy Communion, 10.15 am Morning Prayer

All are welcome to all our services and other activities. The church is open to visitors on Saturday and Sunday afternoons until Harvest time.
Carol Parry and Peter Holland, Churchwardens.

For further details, please contact the Church Office.
Phone: 01622 743321 Email: stpeters.church@icloud.com



Rose Festival



Our Rose Festival this year is on Sunday 30 June at 4pm in St Peter's Churchyard (weather permitting). Please come and enjoy this service of praise and thanksgiving in uplifting surroundings with views over the deer park.



Messy church

We meet in the Village Hall on the second Saturday of the month from 3-5pm.

Baby and Toddlers



We meet in church on Mondays from 10.00-11.30 during term time. The cost of £2.00 per family includes tea, coffee and snacks.



Junction

A warm welcome awaits you, along with Coffee / Tea and Biscuits on Sundays at 10.30am at Junction Church, Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall.
We love God and welcome people from all walks of life.

REPORT IT!

We often get enquiries from residents about problems that are the responsibility of other authorities to action. Any member of the public can report issues to Maidstone Borough Council or Kent County Council via their websites and the following guidance will be of help.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Missed bins

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/bins-and-recycling/primary-areas/report-a-missed-bin-collection>

Fly tipping

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/street-care-and-cleaning/report-fly-tipping>

Significant litter

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

Anti-social behaviour

https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_anti_social_behaviour

Bonfires

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/other-services/community-protection/tier-2-primary-areas/bonfires>

Noise nuisance

https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_a_noise_problem

Graffiti or needles

https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_graffiti_or_needles

Dead animals

https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_a_dead_animal

Dog mess

https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_dog_mess

Pest problems

https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_a_pest_problem

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Road and pavement faults

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

Public right of way faults

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

One major highlight for me was organising the way we were able to support our community during the Covid lock down periods. A big thank you must go to all the volunteers working under our street representatives. We had over 100 volunteers working for the good of us all at that time. We were also able to visit our more vulnerable residents once a week to check they were okay due to the generosity of local organisations donating to our Sunshine Sunday deliveries. Thank you, our model was used by others to set up their own support network.

Many spend their retirements down the allotment, on holiday etc. I have spent the last 12 years of my retirement representing our community at committee meetings, briefings, leading the Independent group and hopefully always using my voice and vote for our collective benefit.

Thank you for giving me the honour to serve you as a Borough Councillor.

I have also decided to stand down as Chairman of the Parish Council, for the same medical reasons however I will remain a Parish Councillor, in a less active capacity.

I would like to highlight some of my achievements I am most proud of during my 14 years as Chairman :

- ♦ Beresfords Hill footpath link from The Quarries to the village centre
- ♦ Provision of category 'A' reservoir to mitigate historical flooding of The Quarries
- ♦ Signal controlled pedestrian crossing on Heath Road
- ♦ 20 mph zone in the village centre
- ♦ Speed limit reduction to 30mph on Heath Road
- ♦ Extending 'The Quarries' conservation area
- ♦ Establishing the village fete and acting as Chair or joint Chair over the last 12 years
- ♦ Instigating the whole parish effort to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies by terminating the agricultural lease and starting the tree planting project in Salts Wood

- ◆ Single handedly planning and maintaining Walk Meadow over the last 25 years
- ◆ Establishing the Parishioner of the Year award

After 25 years serving my country, approaching 30 years on the Parish Council (14 as Chairman) and 12 as MBC member I look forward to taking a step back and allowing others to take the lead.

Steve

**Your newly elected Borough Councillor, for
Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton Anne Dawes**

- ◆ I was born in the Loire Valley in France
- ◆ My husband and I are foster parents. We have lived together in the local area for the last 12 years and in the south east for 19 years.
- ◆ I have stepped down from my gardening business and have recently started working for a Maidstone based charity supporting people at difficult times in their lives
- ◆ In my spare time I enjoy growing fruit and veg on my allotment plot
- ◆ I have recently become a member of Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council and BMAT



It is an honour to take on the challenge of being a Borough Councillor and I am pleased to represent the residents of Boughton Monchelsea and look forward to working with you. If you have anything you would like to discuss please contact me at:

annedawes@maidstone.gov.uk or 01622 299052



SUMMER CONCERT

Boughton Monchelsea Community Choir

Music Director – Karen Hill
Accompanist – Sarah Geering

and

Maidstone Voices

Music Director – Ciara Considine
Accompanist – John Hayden

Saturday 29th June 2024

All Saints' Church Mill Street Maidstone, ME15 6YE

at 7.30pm

Refreshments will be available



Tickets £10.00 each

from "lo.bmcc@gmail.com
or available on the door

Accompanied children under 18 free

A DATE ON YOUR DIARY
Boughton Monchelsea Community Choir
WINTER WARMER CONCERT
Will be held in St Peter's Church
on Saturday, 30th November
MORE DETAILS LATER

Friends of BMAT News

BMAT is a charity which aims to preserve and create beautiful nature rich green space around the village of Boughton Monchelsea and surrounding areas. Residents have access to many of the BMAT sites for walking, playing, fresh air and exercise as well as the many health benefits of being in nature. Sites include Quarry Woods, Walk Meadow, Salts Wood, Furfield open space, Langley Park wild area, Lyewood open space and Firmins Field.

There have been 6 work parties over the winter with Friends of BMAT volunteers working hard to clear litter and unwanted plants, sow wildflower seeds, plant trees and hedgerows and keep woodland paths clear. We want people to be able to enjoy their walking and get closer to nature. The spring has been beautiful this year with bluebells and wild garlic adding fragrance after the rain. Recent sightings include an adder, kestrels, buzzards and nightingales.

Lyewood now has a well fenced meadow area which will be lightly grazed by sheep for part of the year. This helps reduce the big beasts of the meadow- dock, thistle, bramble and nettle – allowing the rarer meadow species to flourish. We are planning a work party to build a hibernaculum (outside the meadow) for reptiles and amphibians to overwinter.

You can join Friends of BMAT Facebook page to learn more and to post your findings and experiences on BMAT land. A big thank you to all Friends of BMAT volunteers!

Mobile library

The mobile library visits Boughton Monchelsea once a fortnight at 10.30am to 11am every other Tuesday and parks on Green Lane, near the Albion. Joining is free and you can order books if they're not on board.

Dates for the next few months are 7th & 14th May, 4th & 18th June, 9th & 23rd July, 6th & 20th August and 3rd & 17th September.

Your Parish Councillors

Following the uncontested Parish Council elections on 2nd May the following Boughton Monchelsea members have now taken office for the next 4 year term

The responsibilities of each councillor are detailed below.

15 members make up a full complement of Parish Councillors but there are 2 vacancies, both in Langley Park ward. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for this area please contact the parish clerk for more information

bmpcclerk@outlook.com

South ward (village and rural areas of the parish)

Leon Date	Planning & Licensing Committee member Speedwatch Co-ordinator
Rob Edmans	Litter Group Co-ordinator Reservoir Co-ordinator
Andy Humphryes	Vice Chairman Vice Chairman – Planning & Licensing Committee Village hall rep.
Richard Martin	Planning & Licensing Committee member Allotment rep.
Steve Munford	
David Redfearn	Play area rep. Tree health Co-ordinator
Doug Smith	Chairman – Planning & Licensing Committee

North ward (Furfield Park and Roman Way developments)

Timothy Oladimeji	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Communication Co-ordinator
Ettienne Steyl	(new member) Planning & Licensing Committee member

Joywood ward

Anne Dawes Kent Association of Local Councils rep
Police Liaison rep

Roy Garland Highways rep.
Tree health Co-ordinator

Langley Park ward

Jeremy Green Chairman
Planning & Licensing Committee member
Footpaths Co-ordinator

Caroline Jessel Biodiversity & Environment Lead
Litter Group Co-ordinator

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

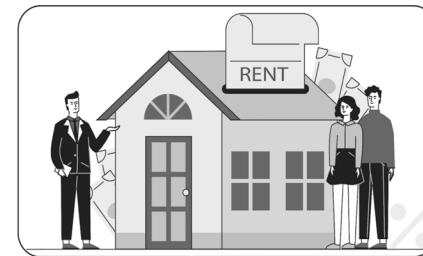
THE RIFGINS TRUST

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

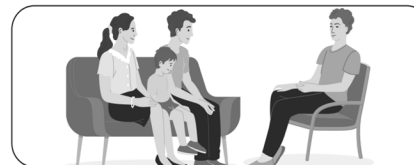
As a small trust we can help individuals or organisations that we feel
would benefit by paying for items, services or facilities in order to
reduce their stress, hardship, poverty and help with their needs.



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



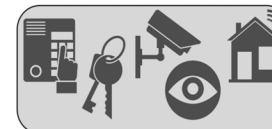
We can pay for families to receive help with child
therapy and emotional trauma



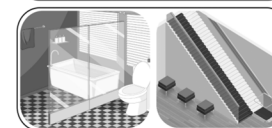
We can help with food vouchers in times of
hardship following job loss / illness



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

Police update

Last year saw the introduction of a new policing model in Kent and our PCSO has now been replaced with a warranted beat officer, PC Harry Greenfield. Harry covers a number of parishes but his work in Boughton Monchelsea over the last few months has included dealing with off road motorbike riders in our public open spaces. This has been a parish wide problem and we are pleased to report that the Police have seized a number of bikes recently which appears to have put a stop to the issue, at least for now. Thankfully we have a low rate of crime in the parish but we have direct contact with Harry so please get in touch if you have any concerns. Criminal activity and anti-social behaviour should obviously continue to be reported via 101 or 999, as appropriate.

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 or so and we are very grateful to all our volunteers for their time and help.

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 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

CLlr Leon Date

Boundary Changes

Following a review by The Electoral Commission and Maidstone Borough Council, there have been a number of recent changes to both MBC ward boundaries and parish boundaries throughout the Maidstone area. Changes affecting Boughton Monchelsea are as follows :

There are now four wards in the parish of Boughton Monchelsea, up from the previous two. Each ward has a specific number of Parish Councillors allocated to it, with a total of 15 members making up the whole Parish Council. The following map shows the boundaries of the 4 wards – ‘south’ (7 members), ‘north’ (2 members), ‘Joywood’ (2 members) and ‘Langley Park’ (4 members). The physical size of the combined northerly wards is much smaller than ‘south’ ward but much of the population of the parish is concentrated in these small wards so it is only right that these residents are properly represented. Although members are allocated to specific wards, every Councillor also has a responsibility for the parish as a whole.

The parish boundary itself has also changed slightly, bringing in the east side of Hubbards Lane, the last few properties on the north side of Heath Road (from Boundary House) and the two farm cottages at Campfield. We would like to welcome all these new residents to the parish and know most of you felt like you were a part of Boughton Monchelsea anyway. We are very pleased you now are!

To complicate matters further, the ward boundaries of Maidstone Borough Council have also changed :

- ♦ The village and rural areas remain within Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton ward, represented by MBC member, **CLlr Anne Dawes**
- ♦ The Joywood development now falls within Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton ward, represented by MBC member, **CLlr Anne Dawes**

- ◆ The Furfield Park and Roman Way developments now fall within Parkwood and Mangravet ward, represented by MBC members, **Cllr Hilary Jenkins** and **Cllr Dan Wilkinson**
- ◆ The Langley Park development now falls within Leeds and Langley ward, represented by MBC members, **Cllr Gary Cooke** and **Cllr Gill Fort**
- ◆ Hubbards Lane, the last few houses on Heath Road and Campfield Cottages remain within Loose & Linton ward, represented by MBC members, Cllr Brian Clark & Cllr Simon Wales

Contact details for relevant Maidstone Borough Councillors for your area can be found on the MBC website

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-and-democracy/primary-areas/your-councillors>

If you have any queries about the above changes please feel free to contact the parish clerk bmpcclerk@outlook.com

Baby & Toddler Group

This is organised as a community activity by St Peter's Church. It runs from 10.00 to 11.30 on most term-time Mondays at the church on Church Hill. ME17 4BU.

Car parking is available on the hill or in the car park. The charge is £2 per family, including refreshments. All DBS and Safeguarding protocols and policies are in place. All are welcome, irrespective of religious affiliation, and there is no need to book.

Further information via alanandloraine@outlook.com.

Haste Hill Road allotments – plots available

We have a small number of vacant half plots available at our Haste Hill Road allotment site. A full plot is approximately 25m x 6m and costs £35 per year to rent with a half plot costing £20. If you live in the parish and are interested in taking on an allotment please contact the parish clerk at bmpcclerk@outlook.com

