



Monxton Matters

Editor
Mike Cleugh
Issue 41
May
2009

Book the 21st and 22nd June for the Monxton Flower Festival

Wanted Volunteers to Clean Up the Village



**A village clean up will take place at 10.00 am on Sunday 7th June
Bacon sandwiches, teas and coffees will be provided outside the village hall to all
volunteers. Anyone who wants to help with the clean up or the Festival please
call Robert Davies 710403. Bring your own brooms and garden tools.**



The Black Swan

High Street, Monxton

Things have changed, come and see what's new

01264 710260

www.theblackswanmonxton.co.uk

Serving food 7 days a week

Fabulous Sunday roasts

Senior citizens' lunches mon - fri £7.50



VILLAGE HALL Report - Monxton AGM

The MPC chairman read out a report as follows from Mr Graham Leslie concerning the Village Hall at the AGM on the 5th May.

“The Village Hall has functioned well in the period under review. Our regular lettings have been gratifyingly constant — the search for more long term bookings is a matter of continued attention.

Our Financial position is sound, with sufficient reserves in both our current and deposit accounts. Funds are available for any possible untoward contingencies that might arise.

A wary eye is being kept on the Heating Boiler and the flat roof, their replacement is ever possible. The redecoration of the windows and outside walls will be a matter for attention later this year.

Further improvements have been undertaken in the Hall.

Both toilets have been refurbished and now present a pleasing facility. Sensor lights have been installed in the entrance passage, the path leading to the main entrance and the rear fire door exit.

The hall floor has been resurfaced — the beautiful cedar wood has been impressively highlighted.

Consideration was given to installing a professional dishwasher. Taking into account the high cost of such a unit and its installation and its real need, it was decided that such a project be left for consideration sometime in the future.

Record must be made of a most generous legacy of £1,000.00 made to the Village Hall by the estate of the late Malcolm Maclagen (George) Dempster, a former resident of Monxton. An acknowledgement will be duly made in the Hall in memory of George Dempster.

The management of our valued Village hall, as always, rests with willing members of the Committee. I would like to put on record my thanks to Karen Simon for her pleasing and conscientious attention to her booking duties, to David Hodgson, for his prudent management of our financial affairs.

To Linda Peters and Jane Baugh for their support on all our undertakings.

To Rose and Colin Wareham the Management Committee owe a particular debt of gratitude. Their work on caring for the Hall's fabric and its general maintenance has been constant an invaluable.

Special mention must be made of the work carried out by Richard and Caroline Unwin in setting up and promoting the Moviola Film Shows. In the past three years some £3,000.00 has been realised for the Village Hall.

The sum total of the Managements Committee's interest and work on the Hall has manifested itself in the numerous expressions of praise for what is now deemed to be a very fine Village Hall and Community Centre.”

Graham Leslie – Chairman Village Hall

Monxton & Ampport Village Hall

Weekly Programme and Forthcoming Events

If you'd like to book the hall for an event please call Karen Simon on 01264 710181

Day	Time	Activity	Contact Name
Monday	9:30am - 10:30am	Yoga Class	Jane 01264 773429
Monday	Afternoon	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Monday	Evening	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Tuesday	9:30am - 1:30pm	** NEW ** 'Wake Up' Toddler Activity class (ages 1 - 3 years)	Katy Hayes 01722 411083
Tuesday	2pm - 3pm	Badminton	
Tuesday	Evening	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Wednesday	8:30am - 1:30pm	Baby Sensory Class	Lin Day 01722 320779
Wednesday	2pm - 4pm	RAGS	
Wednesday	Evening	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Thursday	9:15am - 11:45am	Music with Mummy - baby and toddler music class	Nicky Derrick - 01264 720452
Thursday	Afternoon	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Thursday	6:15pm - 9:15pm	Tap and Modern Dance Classes	Nicky Bull - 01264 323442
Friday	Morning	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Friday	Afternoon	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Friday	Evening	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Saturday	All day	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	

Events

17 th May 2009 Sunday	10:00am	Church Coffee after Service	
24 th and 25 th May 2009 Sunday and Monday	10.00am - 5.00pm	Open Gardens in Monxton - tea and coffee in the village hall	
20 th and 21 st June Saturday and Sunday	Booked out all day	Flower Festival - Classic Car Show and Fine Art Exhibition	Contact Katrina Saville 710597 if you are willing to make cakes

Monxton Baby sitting services
Reliable and responsible baby sitter
available.
Please call Marie on 710597

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF

The Monxton Parish Council Meeting TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2009 AT 8.00PM.

Full edition available on the Monxton Website or from the Parish Clerk

MATTERS ARISING (Abridged version)

FINANCE – STATEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009

Mr. Eaglesham (having circulated a copy to each parishioner present) went through the accounts for last year. Mr Eaglesham explained that the accounts had been approved and signed at a meeting of the Parish Council earlier that evening. The chairman had signed both the cash book and accounts. The total balance in hand as of 31/03/09 is £ 6,972.23. This leaves a current disposable balance of £ 2,972.23

The chairman thanked Cllr Eaglesham for his continuous hard work with the finance and his successful audits.

Out of this amount, the Parish Council continues to set aside £3,000 for improvements to the Village Hall and £1,000 for any further improvements to Traffic Calming.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING – SUNNYBANK

Cllr West advised the Parish Council to contact Mr Keith Sutcliffe of TVBC regarding nominations for the new dwellings as the PC should be consulted before a decision is made. The dwellings should be ready for occupation by September 2009. The clerk will follow this up immediately.

It has been reported to the Parish council that the owners of 19 Sunnybank have erected solar panels without permission. TVBC are aware of this and the enforcement officer, Mr Adrian Munday will conduct an investigation into this matter.

FOOTPATHS

Mrs Allen was not present but had given the Parish clerk a report as follows, which she read out.

“I have been asked by Kurt, the farmer of Manor Farm, to draw the attention of all walkers to please not stray off the footpaths and rights of way. He is particularly concerned about people walking through the copse at the “cross roads” where the tracks from Sunnybank and Little Cottage meet. Not only is it trespassing but walkers and/or their dogs disturb the wildlife, especially nesting birds. At present a pair of partridge is there.

Kurt is also concerned that people might be injured by the bird scaring devices which he has set up on areas away from the rights of way if they do not keep to the designated tracks and footpaths.

Kurt has also asked me to remind people that there is not a right of way alongside the railway except where he has not ploughed at the northern end of what was incorrectly called the gallops where there is access over the railway, via the white gates, to Red Post Lane.

We are every fortunate to have access to so many rights of way in this area and must be careful not to abuse this privilege.

Sally Cleugh has kindly agreed to deputise for me when I am away.”

PLANNING MATTERS

Item	REF/DESCRIPTIONS	Parish Council	TVBC	Comments
1	09/00414/fulln Orchard House – erection of first floor extension	No objection	Permission by TVBC	
2	009/00565/fulln Manor Farm, erection of grain store			See below
3	09/00322/lbwn Neepawa cottage – Erection of 2 storey rear extension	No objection	Permission by TVBC	

Notes:

09/00565 this application had only just been received by Monxton PC so will be considered shortly and sent back to TVBC.

1. Councillor Tim Southern offered his advice with listed building applications.
2. All planning applications can be accessed on line at www.festvalley.gov.uk

Monxton Parish Council Meetings 2009

7th July

8th September

10th November



Black Swan Events Calendar



20th / 21st June Monxton Flower Festival Barbecue 12 until 6.00pm both days

27th June - Spanish Evening

18th July - Seafood Night

22nd August - French Evening

19th September - Caribbean Evening

24th October - Sausage & Pie Evening

14th November - Indian Evening

Report by the Chairman of Monxton Parish Council

This year has seen much change in the village. We've new landlords at the Mucky Duck and new farmers at Manor Farm, Mr and Mrs Snow and family, and several other new residents as house sales have continued apace despite the economic climate. We've also seen the development at Sunnybank get underway, and followed the progress of the planning application for the Airfield.

We've dealt with 9 domestic planning applications and 8 tree applications, and have been involved in 2 planning appeals. We've even succeeded in getting the 30mph limit extended. All in all quite a busy year.

Andover Airfield

The issue which has commanded most of my time this year has to be the Airfield development. As you are all well aware, we campaigned long and hard against this development, and, although permission has now been granted by TVBC, it is a far cry from the initial proposals put forward by the developer, and the planning conditions accompanying the permission are some of the most stringent ever imposed in Test Valley. This is largely due to the thorough and professional critique work carried out by the STOP! team, a fact which has been recognised by the Planning and Highways Departments.

Heartfelt thanks to all those who supported us in this struggle, and to the small but committed STOP! team who have worked so hard. The work is still not over, as continued scrutiny is necessary to ensure that the planning conditions are watertight, and that they are rigorously enforced. We are currently pushing for a monitoring committee to be established, which would include representatives from Parish Councils, STOP! and the developer, so that we can keep abreast of progress and have a forum in which we can raise issues.

Sunnybank

The other main area of development in the village – the affordable homes at Sunnybank - has been much more welcome.

After initial problems convincing the slow worms to relocate, all has been progressing well, with handover planned for September at present. All the front doors are fitted now and the brickwork is proceeding as planned, whilst internally the tacking is almost complete.

We are currently waiting for the proposals from Drew Smith for the play area, and intend to maximize the use of the available space for play equipment.

There were some problems a few months back with parking, damage to the kerbs, mud on the road and deliveries arriving at inconsiderate times of day, but following discussions with the developer, Drew Smith, things seem to be running much more smoothly.

My thanks to Cllr John Chaffey, who, living next door to the site, has been landed with the job of handling any problems which have arisen. The site manager, Doug, should be available during working hours, and will always be ready to listen if there are any further causes for complaint. We have been assured that when it comes to allocating the housing, priority will be given to applicants who can show strong local links.

Section 106 agreements.

With such large developments taking place in our neighbourhood, there does come a pool of money which the developer is required to provide for local, off site projects. Part of the negotiations with Goodman require contributions of several hundred thousand pounds to be made, and even the Sunnybank housing requires money to provide the play area and just over £20,000 towards Public Open Space and Highways.

Report by the Chairman of Monxton Parish Council

Section 106 agreements. (Continued)

Although TVBC no doubt have the majority of this earmarked, we can put in proposals for schemes which will benefit our parishioners affected by the developments. A request was put out in the last issue of Monxton Matters for ideas, and those received include installing a pavement between Sunnybank and the DLO and buying the village green from the brewery. We intend to put some proposals forward to TVBC, so if you have any more good suggestions please let us know.

Broad Road

I'm pleased to report that at long last a little progress has been made with the longstanding issue of the state of Broad Road. Following numerous calls to the Hampshire Highways call centre, I eventually got to meet up with the engineer for the area, Paul Walsh, who agreed that the current situation was not acceptable, and has assured me that the pot holes in the unofficial passing places will be filled in very soon to make them safe to use. Mr Walsh will also raise a request for official, tarmac passing places to be provided, although this will of course be dependent on budget, and would be in next financial year's allocation at the earliest.

30mph zone

Still on the subject of roads, I'm certain you will all have noticed that the Monxton sign moved up the road to Sunnybank earlier in the year, making it clear to all that this is the start of our village. More recently you will have seen the extensions to the 30mph zone in the village. This now extends past Sunnybank and to the top of the hill on Abbots Ann Road. Hopefully this will make life easier and safer for us all. Do make sure you keep to the new speed limit, as the police will be carrying out speed checks.

Chalkpit Lane junction

Following requests from residents, we are now in the process of buying a visibility mirror to be placed opposite the Chalkpit Lane junction on Abbots Ann Road, as this is currently a very dangerous turning from which to try to pull out.

Dog Waste Sunnybank

A further request has seen a new dog waste bin installed at Sunnybank, and 'Please clean up after your dog' signs are on order, to be positioned in various locations around the village. I recently learnt that the upkeep of the bus shelters is the responsibility of the Parish Council, so we intend to get these cleaned and tidied up in the near future.

Looking forward, we have the Village Open Gardens on 24th and 25th May, and the Monxton Flower Festival on the weekend of 20/21 June. I'm sure both of these events will be great successes, and would like to thank all those who take the time and trouble to organize them.

Finally I'd like to thank Jules and my fellow Parish Councillors for all their hard work and support throughout the year."

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr Robert Davies was not present but had given the clerk a report to read out.

“We are fortunate, here in Monxton, to live in a peaceful setting, which is largely free of interference from the criminal fraternity.

Monxton is in the rural northwest Hampshire Police area, which stretches roughly from Shipton Bellinger in the west to Bullington Cross in the east and from Vernham Dean in the north to Kings Sombourne in the South. The weekly Police bulletins for this area include most of the reported crimes and there are usually between 4 and 12 in any week. That is about one incident a day, which makes this an area of low crime, when measured against national statistics. We are situated quite near the centre of this “Low Crime” area and here in Monxton the crime rate currently is even lower than many of our neighbouring communities.

We are indeed very fortunate – no doubt about that – but, at the risk of repeating myself, *perhaps for the thousandth time*, it is very easy to become complacent in a setting like this and forget to take care of the basics of crime prevention. Please remember to be vigilant at all times and make sure you take all reasonable crime prevention measures.

To remind us of the ever-present threat of criminal activity there have been some criminal events here in Monxton since the AGM on 13 May 2008. To give an idea of what has been going on in Monxton here are some examples of incidents that were reported to the Police in the last 12 months :

- In June I reported to the Parish Council that a caravan had been stolen from outside a house in Monxton, two cars had be vandalised and the charity box was stolen from the Black Swan – *a particularly mean-minded small crime*.
- In January I reported to the Parish Council that another caravan was stolen on the night of New Years Eve and New Years Day.
- In March I reported that two large garden urns had been stolen.

Distraction burglaries and bogus callers have been the subject of Neighbourhood Watch “alerts” circulated to everybody in the village and they remain a current and serious threat. Be very cautious when a stranger appears at your front door or calls you on the telephone. Also, Internet scams are on the increase and are becoming more subtle and more dangerous.

In January the Chief constable of Hampshire announced Operation Nemesis, which is a “crack-down” on house burglary. The Chief Constable is reported as saying “*Operation Nemesis is not a public relations exercise. This is a direct response to an increase in the rate of burglary, which was going against the overall falls in reported crime. The decision was taken to place force-wide resources at the disposal of Operation Nemeses for the period of the operation. These are resources that would not ordinarily be focused on burglary*”. Operation Nemesis was originally planned for three months but it has been extended now to five months. In a few weeks time the whole operation will be assessed and the results will be published - the early indications are that it is a considerable success.

The various Police telephone numbers have been a source of some confusion in recent years and it was announced recently that the function of the 101-telephone number is to be changed.

101 will be combined with the 0845 0454545 Police telephone number and both numbers will be available in parallel to deal with all calls to the police – except for 999 emergencies.