



Monxton Matters

*Editor
Mike Cleugh*

*Issue 11
April 2004*

We say 'No' to Heavy Goods Vehicles in Monxton

Manor Farm in Abbots Ann is still causing major concern to the residents in Monxton. The HGVs delivering wood to ATF are still using the High Street to access Manor Farm, even though planning permission was recently refused for retention of use of the site for storage purposes (warehousing in an outside area).

The Parish Council received a letter from Paul Jackson, the Head of Development Control at TVBC indicating the present use that is taking place (in an outside area) is in breach of planning control. Discussions are currently taking place between TVBC and Mr. Diplock (ATF) to secure a scaled down use of the site.

In the meantime, however, the legal department have been instructed to prepare an enforcement notice to secure the cessation of the outside storage. This does not affect Siteweld, who obtained planning permission to carry out light industrial work in 1991.



However, a greater concern is a proposal suggested by Mr. Diplock for 7.5 ton lorries to use Sarsons Lane and access the farm through Monxton, via the Pillhill bridge and crossroads. This is being considered as an alternative, which may cause more problems for example on the sharp corner round by the church.

Richard Williams, at Sadler's Cottage, who knows only too well the existing problems, is, on behalf of the Traffic Group, in contact with Mr. Ray Alborough of the Transport office at TVBC and has sent him numerous photographs to back up our objections, showing the enormous lorries still delivering to ATF.



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Miscellaneous Matters

Traffic Calming Group

At the MPC meeting of the 25th March 2004, Mr Allen advised the Council that he had received a letter from Hannah Baker, of HCC on 15th March. The letter he perceived as being fairly negative. It was mainly a 'holding letter' with lots of 'reviewing'. He explained HCC did not consider the crossroads a high priority as it was not an accident hotspot and they gave no exact dates of when traffic calming would start. Mr Allen replied to this letter, the group believes Monxton is a low priority, the team feels a stronger approach is needed. Mr Allen asked for the MPC's approval with this issue, which was given their support. Mr Eaglesham questioned the cost of the traffic calming scheme, as this has not been taken into account for budget 2004/2005. The Chairman thanked Mr Allen for this information.

The Chairman said that she had spoken to Mr Diplock of Manor Farm, concerning the issue

of the large lorries, he confirmed there would be a reduction in their size as he is going to change his method of distribution in the area. He also confirmed that the smaller lorries would not be coming through the high street and that they would be coming off the A303 down Sarson Lane, turning left and approaching the crossroads from Ampport, therefore going straight across at the crossroads.

Mr Richard Williams of Saddlers Cottage on the High Street expressed his frustration and anger with the lack of progress of any positive developments. There was also a question of the certificate of lawfulness at Manor Farm but the Chairman advised that Manor Farm was being confused with Prospect Farm. The group believe the speed and increase volume of traffic is also down to the of the development at the DLO. The Chairman advised she would contact Hannah Baker to confirm a start date for the pilot scheme.

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

At the MPC meeting of the 25th March 2004, Mr David Hodgson, the treasurer of the Village Hall gave a detailed and very informative presentation on the current position of the village hall. Mr Hodgson confirmed that Ampport is prepared to add its name to the village hall, so that it becomes Monxton & Ampport Village Hall, so long as Ampport Parish Council does not have any financial commitment. Mr Hodgson has advised their council that any volunteers from Ampport would be welcome to join the village hall committee. Mr Hodgson continued with a proposed schedule of the way forward.

He said that before proceeding with improvement planning grants, the car-parking problem should be addressed; the redecoration of the hall and a new notice board should be purchased. Mr Eaglesham said that it would be cheaper if the Parish Council pays for the notice board as they could claim back the VAT and then charge the village hall for 50% of the balance. It was suggested that the renaming of the village hall be highlighted to the villagers of Monxton via the next issue of Monxton Matters and the Parish magazine. It will also be mentioned at the AGM in May. The Chairman advised that the car-parking surfacing would commence shortly. With reference to the redecoration, the DLO had unfortunately omitted this from their current schedule and Mr Hodgson suggested the Chairman contact them again, mentioning the problem of increased traffic through the village. The next stage, assuming the above was positive would be to have the building surveyed for any potential problems, including the roof, heating or boiler and electrical services. This should be done around June time and by then the income from the hall from the previous 3 months can be studied, hopefully bringing in around £400 per month including hall hire and special events.

From the income received in the past 10 months and assuming there were no further losses to the income figures by August, the committee should be in a position to proceed to the detailed planning stage and then onto obtaining three estimates for the work. Disabled access, toilets, fire exits etc would be looked at along with the possibility of purchasing more comfortable seating. Grants could then be applied for. Hampshire County Council has advised that they will contribute up to 50% of the combined grant from TVBC and Monxton Parish Council. Mr Hodgson said that the current bank balance of the village hall is £13,053 and that the committee must retain at least 6 months operating costs on any grant application.

Monxton Village Hall Forthcoming Events

At the VILLAGE HALL

Thursday May 13th, 8.00pm.	The Monxton Parish Council AGM will be held at the Village Hall
Friday 21st May, 2004.	A RETRO MUSICAL COMEDY – “RADIO DAYS AND TV TIMES” Celebrating the Golden Age of Radio and Television. “ITMA to DYNASTY” A Times of our lives Music Theatre Co. Tickets available from 710308 or 710147 Cost £10 each
Saturday: 29th May	Starts 11.00 am Annual Duck Race Village Green & Black Swan
Sunday: 30th & 31st May	National Gardens Scheme in Monxton - various gardens on view Cream teas available in the village hall from 2.30- 5.30 pm
Village Hall Weekly Programme	
Mondays: Morning Evening	10.30 – 12.30 Arts & Crafts group 7.30-9.30 pm Jujitsu
Tues. Afternoon 2.30-3.30 Evening 5.00 -7.00	Badminton Sonnets Drama group
Wednesday Morning 11.15 Evening	Exercise class and circuit training Sonnets Drama group
Friday: 10.00am – 3.00pm	Cricklade college mobile computer bus: Web site & email courses
Saturday:	Jumble sales, occasional children’s parties, social events
Sunday: Mornings	Monthly Church coffee mornings

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MONXTON CLEAN UP DAY SUNDAY 9th MAY 2004

The annual village clean up will be on Sunday 9th May 2004, at 10.00 am, meeting outside the village hall. Help of all kinds is required, anyone to help collect rubbish. Tongs and black bags supplied. We no longer take part in the Best Kept Village competition because of a change in the rules, but we are still very proud of our village and this annual event makes a big difference to its appearance. The Chairman will be buying a round of drinks in the Black Swan.

Traffic Calming Reaches Monxton

The Monxton Traffic Group has contacted Hannah Baker of HCC and in a letter dated April 8th has received a promise that work will start on the Traffic Calming Scheme within the next 6-8 weeks. This is being followed up by the MPC Chairman, Sue Ryan and Richard Williams to ensure that this takes place at the time specified. The traffic calming scheme only provides the building of temporary pinch points on entering and leaving the village. This will dissuade traffic from using Monxton as a rat run. Many people including the Traffic Group consider this does not go far enough in cutting down the amount of traffic passing through the village unnecessarily, other suggestions are:-

- 1) The provision of extra signs directing traffic to Abbots Ann down Red Post lane and Cattle Lane, hence avoiding Monxton
- 2) Providing a second restriction sign at the DLO roundabout, so misguided traffic off the A303 has a chance to turn round before going too far and over Red Post Bridge
- 3) Regulating the signs already provided so they all specify a maximum allowance of 12-ton m.g.w. (Maximum gross weight) as illustrated on the sign provided by the DLO.

We have to keep the pressure on. We are a small village, but we have waited long enough for HCC’s serious consideration. We would like to see the evidence of a traffic calming scheme in place before the summer.

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
25th March 2004 at 8.00pm**

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

MATTERS ARISING

FOOTPATHS

The Parish clerk read out a report she had received from Emma Horrell. There was not a lot to report. Mrs Horrell announced that she had been monitoring the dog excrement problem.

Two signs had been put up in the village although one had already been removed. Mrs Horrell wanted to stress that she is not against dog walkers but that she is acting in the public's interest. The subject of signs was discussed at the meeting.

It was highlighted that many dog walkers from outside the village come into Monxton to walk their dogs and therefore the signs were for their benefit as well. It was mentioned that the paths are a public highway and that dog fouling is therefore not permitted. The Chairman said, that she would do a small article in Monxton Matters regarding this issue.

Regarding footpath 3, this is still ploughed over. Mrs Horrell has spoken to Mr Pratt, the farmer and he assured her that it would be reinstated. She will monitor this. There is also a broken Fingerpost at the Old Stockbridge Road end of this footpath. This has been reported to Mr Watson for replacement.

At Bridleway 9 (from Broad Lane at the railway bridge corner) there is still a lot of rubble and garden rubbish at the start of the path, which again has been reported for collection.

As the path network covers a large area, Mrs Horrell asked that villagers help report any problems with footpaths to her on 711035.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Chris Brandwood advised the Council that the last two months have been very quiet and there have been no reported incidents.

BROAD LANE

The Chairman advised that she has spoken to Mrs Smith of Broad Lane concerning the unsightly vehicles and they discussed the lack of storage. It was suggested that a small barn could perhaps be built to solve this matter. Mrs Smith was concerned as to whether the Parish Council would be in agreement.

In principle the Parish Council would not object as it was agreed, a barn of appropriate size would be satisfactory on condition that the unsightly vehicles were also removed (a condition included with the planning permission).

VDS UPDATE

TVBC have replied to Joan Leslie advising that they will be in the position to look at the finished document on the 8th of May.

MATTERS BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

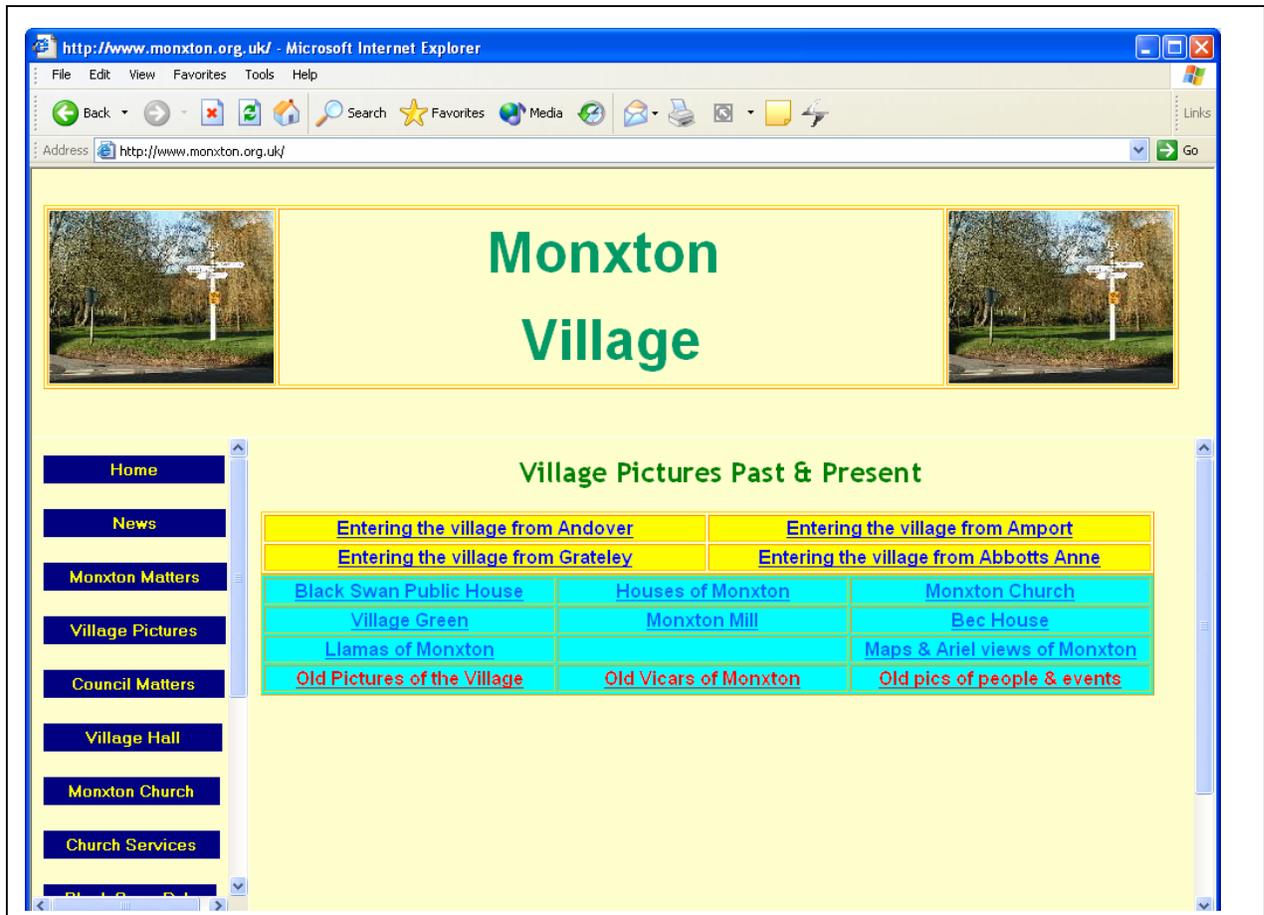
Mrs Richards mentioned in the last meeting that Mr Colbourne may be interested in the role of a 'Parish Highway Coordinator. Mr Colbourne expressed his interest and was happy to accept the role.

Mr Colbourne said the Council that there was now a weight restriction sign at the Hundred Acre roundabout.

Mr Colbourne told the Council that with reference to the new wastage disposal service, various residents at Sunnybank had suggested they use the allotment site at Sunnybank for their waste. It was agreed that this would not be appropriate as it would become very untidy and a potential health risk.

Planning Matters (Abridged version)

Item	Ref/Description	Parish Council	TVBC	Comments
1	TVN.CLE.00022 +1/2/3 Certificate of lawfulness for existing use at Prospect Farm - Mr Machin.		Still under review.	No further information.
2	TVN.LB.00829 Provision of two first floor windows in gable end of side elevation together with internal alterations – Hals Croft, Abbots Ann road, Monxton.		Approved	
3	TVN.08981 – Erection of two storey front extension to provide extended dining room with bedroom over, open porch with canopy over, extend garage on front/side elevation and erection of lean to on rear elevation – Marshag (now known as Orchard House).		Approved	Several queries have been raised over Georgian windows installed not shown on plans.
4	TVN.03722/5 Erection of dwelling and detached double garage and construction of vehicular access-Corner Cottage, Monxton.	MPC objected due to “brown line” policy.	Refused	
5	TVN.09011 – Erection of two storey extension to provide sitting and dining room with two bedroom and bathroom over, provision of new vehicular access and front wall and sitting of new oil tank – High Trees, Monxton.		Approved	Building work has commenced.
6	TVN.07224/1 – Retention of stables, Part of OS Parcel 4400, Broad Lane, Monxton.		Approved	This land has been sold to new owners.
7	TVN.05969/5 Erection of woodland workshop and installation of septic tank, Monxton Nurseries.	Letter of objection sent to TVBC.		
8	TRE.CA00587/87 Fell cherry tree, crown, clean and dead wood Silver Birch, Black Swan, Monxton.		Approved	New cherry tree to be planted.
9	TRE.CA00587/89 Pollard willow tree, Glebe Cottage, Monxton.	Replaces TRE.CA00587 /88 letter of approval sent to TVBC.		TVBC tree specialist requested tree be pollarded to allow for re-growth.



New Improved Monxton Web Site

The Monxton Web site received a major make over earlier this year with some significant new sections added to the site. These include:

- ❑ Village Pictures: a greatly enhanced set of pictures taken from both past and present.

The old photos of Monxton, from days gone by were provided by Diana Coldicot in a photo album, made to celebrate the Millennium. Many of these have now been scanned into electronic format and can be viewed on the site by simply clicking on the Village Pictures menu option on the left hand menu bar, the page above will then be displayed.

Other sections, which have been amended, include:

- ❑ Church services, which is new and provides the latest information on the church activities and events.
- ❑ Village hall – now includes an activities section updated monthly.

If anyone in the village would like to see any new sections added to the site please send any suggestions to the Web site administrator by emailing him at:

Monxton.matters@btopenworld.com or
alternatively calling Mike Cleugh on 01264 710276

DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 13th May

MONXTON DUCK RACE SATURDAY 29th MAY 2004

The annual duck race will take place on Sat 29 May 04, on the village green and in conjunction with this, to make the day something special we are aiming to run a village fete.

The day will start at 11.00 am and will be opened by our MP, Sir George Young. Stalls are likely to include books, cakes, bottles, tombola, plant and local crafts.

We are also trying to get a bouncy castle. 'Ducks' will be on sale within the Black Swan pub and Ampert School prior to 29 May and then they will also be on sale on the village green during the day.

There will be a number of fabulous prizes for each race. The Black Swan will be open all day providing music entertainment and they will be serving a Hog Roast. The proceeds of the day will go to the Monxton Village Hall and Ampert School.

Please come and support this event and remember we had a lot of fun last year.

Monxton Matters Needs Your Support

If villagers have any articles, or interesting pictures of Monxton they wish to submit for publishing in this magazine please contact Mike Cleugh on 01264 710276

Date for next issue May 30th 2004

Dog Waste

After the warm summer the footpath secretary reported dog fouling on the footpath beside the Leslie's house up to the Gallops. The Parish Council asked TVBC to investigate and advise. Their Mr. Mason reported that bins would be inappropriate but small stickers should be helpful.

Dogs have always run loose on this track and usually use the long grass rather than the path. Now that the weather is improving the number of dog walkers will increase. The stickers are therefore to remind all dog walkers to keep the central footpath excrement free if possible.

The PC. would like to reinstate the sticker that has blown off, although aware that some find them unsightly in a country area. (E.H.)

Please ring Sue Ryan on 710413, if you particularly do not want this to happen.

If you loose your dog you should call the Police 0845 045 4545 and the local dog warden 01264 368000.



SCHOOL HOUSE

The current School House consists of two properties, School House (historically forming part of Beckley's Farm along with Newcott) and the former School Room. It is the latter which provides the most interesting history.

The School Room was originally built in 1847 with a belfry set into the front gable, for the sum of £125 by the Reverend Edmund Durnford, whom it would seem, funded the project himself. The first schoolmistress, Mrs Ann Lovelock, lived in the School House next door. At its peak in 1871 there was 68 children registered at the school, equally split between boys and girls. The school always had to compete with nearby educational establishments and with the increasing statutory requirements was unable to compete and eventually closed in the summer of 1887, never to reopen again as a school.

As well as a school, it was also used for a number of other functions and indeed in 1887 the Monxton Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society was formed and used to hold monthly meetings in the School Room.

In the 1930's, the School Room became the official Parish Room and was regularly used for Sunday School, concerts and other such gatherings. The School Room throughout this period played host to a number of official engagements, including in 1947 a sponsored children's tea party to celebrate the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

Eventually in 1969 the School Room was sold to Mr & Mrs Pat Bowles and was used as Pat's workshop, where he made carrying boxes for racing pigeons.

The present owner, Andrew O'Flaherty, bought the property in 1999 and has now received Listed Building Consent to repair the School Room and turn it into living accommodation, with a gallery accessed by a spiral staircase. The aim will be to restore the windows and exterior to their original condition.

