



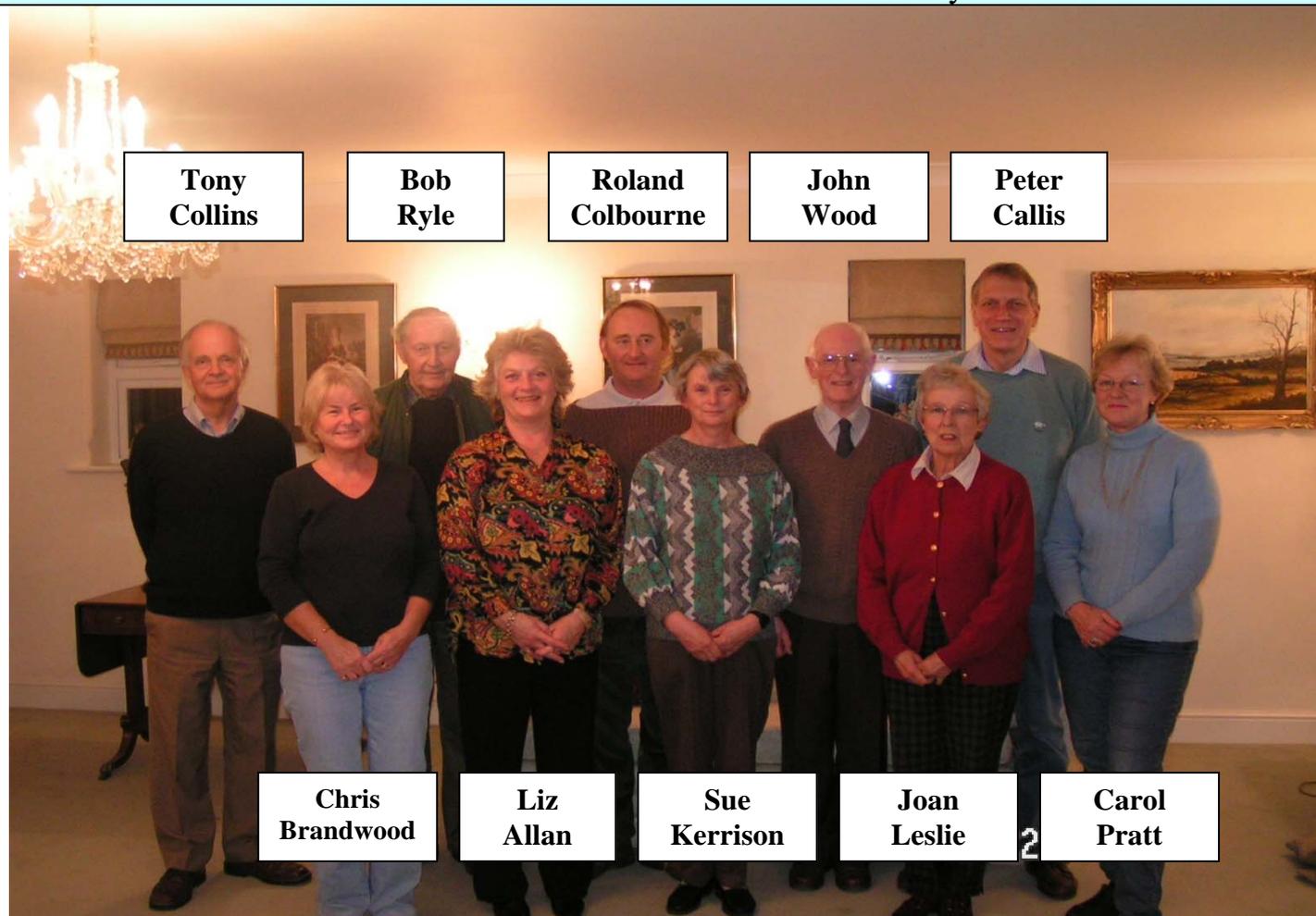
Monxton Matters

Editor
Mike Cleugh

Issue 15
December 2004

Neighbourhood Watch Team – Make Sure You Know Your Representative

See overleaf for details of who to contact in your area



**Tony
Collins**

**Bob
Ryle**

**Roland
Colbourne**

**John
Wood**

**Peter
Callis**

**Chris
Brandwood**

**Liz
Allan**

**Sue
Kerrison**

**Joan
Leslie**

**Carol
Pratt**

The Black Swan

at
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Sunday Roasts

★ Senior Citizens' Lunches Mon-Wed £5.00 ★



Neighbourhood Watch Team

Monxton Neighbourhood Watch	Phone no	Area Covered
Chris Brandwood	710848	Co Ordinator
Peter Callis	710982	Green Lane
Carol Pratt	710305	Abbott Ann Road
Bob Ryle	710388	Chalkpit Lane
Joan Leslie	710253	Andover Road
Roland Colbourne	710589	Monxton Road & Sunnybank
John Wood	710518	Broad Road
Tony Collins	710324	High Street
Liz Allan	710472	Amport Road
Sue Kerrison	710370	Prospect Farms

The Allotments Site – A Brief Update

There have been several complaints raised by some villagers over the fact that Monxton Parish Council has given the allotments back to the Test Valley Borough Council.

When Sunnybank estate was built, the residents asked for allotments. The area behind the original Sunnybank bungalows was allotted for this purpose and the Parish Council was charged with the upkeep of the site. Several of the residents took up the free offer of the allotments at that time. Over the last few years the villagers' interest has dwindled to the point where no allotments were being used.

The site was costing the Parish a considerable amount to cut the grass in the area several times a year. However, much of the area was inaccessible due to the growth of brambles, nettles and dumped rubbish. Volunteers cleaned up the area two years ago and a machine was brought in to cut down the brambles and restore the area.

The site was also offered to other Parishes for allotment use and one individual from Weyhill took on one site for awhile but let it lapse in the same year. The site was advertised in Monxton Matters but as no-one expressed any interest in any allotments, therefore it was offered back to Test Valley to relieve the Parish of the cost of cutting and management. Test Valley was quick to repair the fence on the field side and then fitted a padlock and chain to the gate and dropped a lorry load of soil into the vehicle access.

This raised considerable consternation from some of the parishioners as access was denied to them. Monxton Parish Council was not aware that Test Valley would carry out this action and questioned it. The answer was that there would no longer be any insurance cover on the site, so access had to be denied.

The parish council has since asked Test Valley if the padlock could be removed and a notice put up to the effect that no liability would be accepted by TVBC. Up to the time of publishing no answer has been received.

Unfortunately some individual cut the barbed wire between the new fencing and the hedging, which was discovered by the owner of the adjoining farmland who had seen someone walk through, from the set-a-side area into the site. He was very annoyed at this and contacted a parish councillor, who immediately repaired the fencing.

The councillor also noticed that the gate had been lifted off its hinges. Acts of this type do not help the Parish Councils case when trying to remedy the situation. Contrary to popular belief access to the old allotment site, which all enjoyed, is not a public right of way.

In summary the allotments are no longer a Parish facility and villagers are requested to respect the situation and not trespass or damage TVBC property or fencing.

Monxton Village Hall Forthcoming Events

Cricklade College Mobile Computer Bus Back in September
Classes are to continue every Friday from 10 – 12am, from Friday 17th September.

For further enquiries contact Sharon Corbett (IT Training) at Cricklade College on 360125

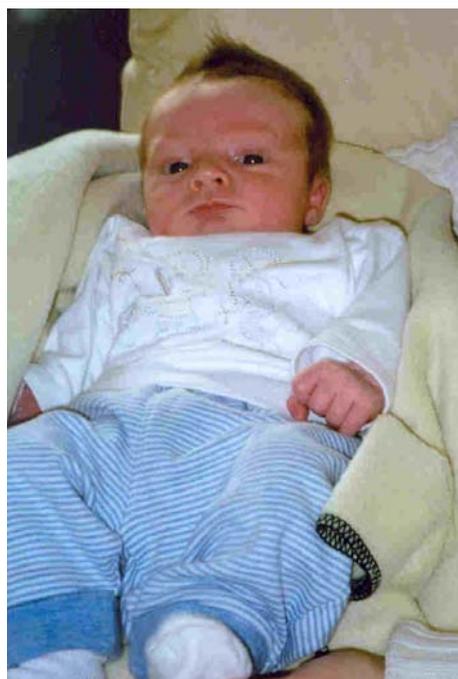
Village Hall Weekly Programme

Mondays: Morning 10.30 – 12.30 Evening 7.30-9.30 pm	Arts & Crafts group resumes in February Jujitsu
Tues. Afternoon 2.30 - 3.30	Badminton
Wednesday Morning 11.15	Exercise class and circuit training
Friday:	Available for social events
Saturday:	Jumble sales, occasional children's parties, social events
Sunday: Mornings	Monthly Church coffee mornings
Friday 17th December Starts 7.30 pm	Bingo night
Thursday 27th January 2005 8.00 –10.00 pm	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

A team from the DLO has volunteered to redecorate the Village Hall in January.
They will be painting the main hall, kitchen and toilets.
Our thanks in advance to Major Hayter and his team

Advance Notice of a Summer Party at the Village Hall

A village party had been suggested for next summer and could perhaps involve the neighbouring parishes. This party would take the form of a barbeque with live music and a disco. This would be in the June/July period subject to getting support from the villagers of Monxton and Amport. Anyone with any comments, suggestions or wishing to volunteer should contact the editor by email at Monxton.matters@btopenworld.com



Congratulations To Hannah & Nathan Colbourne on the birth of their son Archie, who is two weeks old and arrived on the 8th November this year. Baby and parents are doing well as are the proud grandparents who are Roland and Jennifer Colbourne residents of Sunnybank.

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
18TH NOVEMBER 2004**

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

MATTERS ARISING (Abridged version)

FOOTPATHS

As Mrs Horrell was not present there was not a report, however the Chairman told the council that there is still a problem with dogs fouling the path used by walkers at the side of Little Cottage. She has placed a bin that can be used for this purpose. There is an issue with the disposal of the contents of the bin, so the situation will be monitored. The bin provided by TVBC will cost Monxton Parish Council £30 per month.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Nothing to report for Monxton. Mrs Brandwood said she had unfortunately missed the last meeting held by Hampshire Constabulary, which was concerning the reduction in police in the area. She told the Council that the police still insist there will be no difference to the level of policing in the rural areas. Mrs Brandwood and the council thanked Mr Michael Ross who is leaving the group for his help with the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and will be replaced by Mr Peter Calliss.

TRAFFIC CALMING GROUP

Mr Allen told the council that at their last meeting with the various TVBC, HCC and other agencies, there were three points Mr Allen wished to highlight (a) That the police had refused to come (b) Sir George Young attended the meeting and he too was concerned that the Police did not attend and (c) It appears that the project is moving forward albeit slowly, as so many agencies are involved it is sometimes difficult to tell. Most agencies appear to be supporting the group and the scheme seems to be going in the right direction. Mr Allen requested that villagers drive at 15/20 miles per hour to set an example to others. Many present had noticed the police presence in the village on 3 occasions. Several drivers had been caught speeding. It was agreed that this police presence is imperative to the village and will hopefully act as a deterrent.

Mr Allen said and the Council agreed, that the traffic calming measures so far had been a failure. Discussions will be taking place presently to discuss alternative measures. A right of way sign, as a replacement to the present traffic calming measures is a possibility.

FINANCE

Mr Eaglesham told the council that they had not received an invoice from Countryworks for a year despite various reminders. Mr Clive Hutchinson is currently mowing the village green since Mr William Ross's resignation. It was agreed by the council that the contract should remain with Mr Hutchinson as he was doing a good job. Mr Eaglesham told the council he had received the External Audit Certificate for the year ending 31/03/04. It would be displayed on the village hall notice board as legally required for 14 days.

Mr Eaglesham discussed the proposed precept calculation for 2005/2006. The full calculation is kept on file with the Parish Clerk should anyone wish to see the breakdown. The figures must be in by the middle of January 2005. It was agreed that as there is currently £5,000 set aside for improvements to the village hall, no further allocation should be made this year. Instead £2,000 should be allocated to traffic calming measures. It was agreed that the precept amount be £5,010.00, which is an increase on last year (which was a reduction) of less than 5%.

The chairman told the council that the village hall currently had £10,000 set aside for improvements. The chairman added that there appeared to be more interest in the village hall from Ampport and that it could lead to future bookings. However unfortunately as yet, no one from Ampport appeared to be willing to be on the village hall committee.

Planning Matters (Abridged version)

Item	Ref/Description	Parish Council	TVBC	Comments
1	TVN.00022/1/2/3 Certificate of Lawfulness Prospect Farm			No update
2	TVN.05969/5 Erection of woodland workshop and installation of septic tank, Monxton Nurseries	Objection		Appeal January 26 th 2005
3	TVN.07241/3 Erection of storage building and provision of manege – Part of OS Parcel 4400, Broad Lane	No objection – subject to removal of all access vehicles from the site.	Refused	
4	TVN.00687/9 Continued use of yard and buildings for storage of fencing materials, Manor Farm, Abbots Ann road.	Objection		See previous issue of MM
5	TRE.CA00587/96 fell 1 Apple tree, Orchard House, high street.	No objection	No objection	
6	TRE.CA00587/99 fell 5 lawson cypress trees, fell 2 norway spruce trees, fell 1 willow tree, Willow Glen.	No objection	No objection	
7	TRE.CA00587/102 fell 4 sycamore trees to 50cms from ground level, fell 1 ash tree to 50cms from ground level. Thin and deadwood other trees on the site. Brewery house, Monxton.	No objection		
8	TVN.LB00614/1 Demolition of breakfast area and erection of single storey rear extension to provide kitchen breakfast room, garden room and bathroom. Monks Foyle cottage, Monxton.	Objection to destruction of listed wall, size of extension and proposed roofing materials.		
9	TVN.06647/1 Single storey rear extension to provide kitchen, breakfast room, garden room and bathroom. Monks Foyle.	See above		
10	TVN.00687/9 Continued use of yard and buildings for storage of fencing materials, Manor Farm, Abbots Ann Road, Monxton.	The planning committee discussed this application on 14/10/04. The committee resolved to grant permission subject to completion of a legal agreement between TVBC and the applicant.		
11	TVN.07241/3 – Erection of storage building and provision of manege – Broad Lane.	The Chairman advised that she has since spoken to the applicant Mrs Smith, who in turn advised her that permission had been granted for the manege. The Parish Council, however, have not been advised of this as yet. The storage building matter is going to appeal.		

DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting will be held on Thursday 27th January 2005 at 8.00 pm.

Monxton Parish Council Minutes (Abridged version)

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS

The chairman told the Council that she attended the AGM of HAPTC where Quality parish Council's were discussed. HAPTC wish to encourage all council's to become Quality Parish's.

In order to become a 'Quality Parish Council', the council must be carrying out certain procedures. Monxton is conforming to all requests except that the clerk does not hold an AQA Certificate. The clerk explained that the AQA certificate involved at least forty hours of work and at the moment she was not able to devote the time required.

The clerk also explained that it seemed to be the opinion of many clerks (see the latest addition of the Council for clerk's magazine) that the certificate is only applicable where the population is greater than 5000. It was agreed by the council that this status should not be pursued at this time.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The chairman told the council she has looked at the latest Housing Needs Survey. Mr Colbourne told the council that the majority of residents in Sunnybank are not in favour of low cost housing being built on the allotment site. It was agreed by the council that it is not the appropriate time to pursue this matter.

OTHER MATTERS

The chairman advised that she has spoken to TVBC regarding the tree, which is still hanging over the brook on the village green. They will be removing it but it is not their priority at present. Although the chairman has spoken to Mr Thelwell of the Manor, Mr Eaglesham requested that the chairman writes to him to see if something can be done sooner.

THE STATE OF THE ROADS

In general the roads in Monxton are in a poor to fair state of repair. There are several factors that contribute to this state as follows;

Finance, appears to be a "get out" clause used by the TVBC when challenged on the state of the roads in the area, but the roads have been left un-repaired for many years, consequently repair is going to be more dramatic.

Maintenance, there has been very little maintenance carried out on the roads in the Monxton area, in fact no resurfacing has occurred since mains drainage was put through the village.

Drainage, whilst there appears to be a regime of gully clearing, the ditches for the most part, which were dug in appropriate positions have not been kept up. This has allowed considerable amounts of running and standing water to build up. This in turn has allowed degradation of the surface to the point where potholes have occurred and the resultant debris has blocked the gulleys!

Unsuitable vehicles, there has been an increase of very large vehicles on the village roads. The weight of these vehicles is damaging the road edges.

More vehicle usage, the roads through the parish were originally made for movement of livestock, we have seen an enormous increase in traffic of all sorts, this has resulted in a constant pounding, not only of the surface but also the foundation.

Types of vehicle, we are all aware of the increase in large lorries and 4*4s. The single track roads which ran through the area are now being turned into roads wide enough for two vehicles to pass by the breakdown of the road edges.

A more detailed inspection of the roads in Monxton is to take place and the results will be available in Monxton Matters

Trek Nepal 19 February to 4 March 2005

In February of next year Andrew O'Flaherty who lives at the Old School House in Monxton, is attempting a seven-day trek in the Himalayas in support of the charity SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association).

The aim of the challenge is to raise much-needed funds and awareness to help continue the work of the Association. Their remit is widespread covering from dealing with war widows to assisting where families have broken up. SSAFA's work also extends to Nepal itself, the home of the legendary Gurkhas (see www.ssafa.org.uk).

Let me assure you this will not be a 'jolly'. Many people will have seen the recent Himalayas series by Michael Palin on the BBC and witnessed the distress he experienced with altitude sickness. Each day will involve about eight hours of exercise and at its highest point (Pike Peak) our trek will reach a height of 4,070 metres.

Furthermore, leading the group will be Chris Ryan, an ex SAS soldier and best selling novelist. He was the one member of the group operating behind enemy lines in the Gulf War immortalised in the book 'Bravo Two Zero' who evaded capture. He was awarded the Military Medal for this. During his ten years in the SAS he was involved in overt and covert operations and was also Sniper Team Commander of the anti-terrorist team.

Andrew's training has already started and now includes two-circuit training classes a week, individual gym sessions and he is now starting long walks at weekends. He intends to arrive in Nepal fit to take on the challenge, keep with Chris Ryan and for one day carry all my kit!

Andrew has a target to raise a minimum of £2,500; he is meeting all the costs of participating and hopes that you can help him by making whatever little contribution you are able.

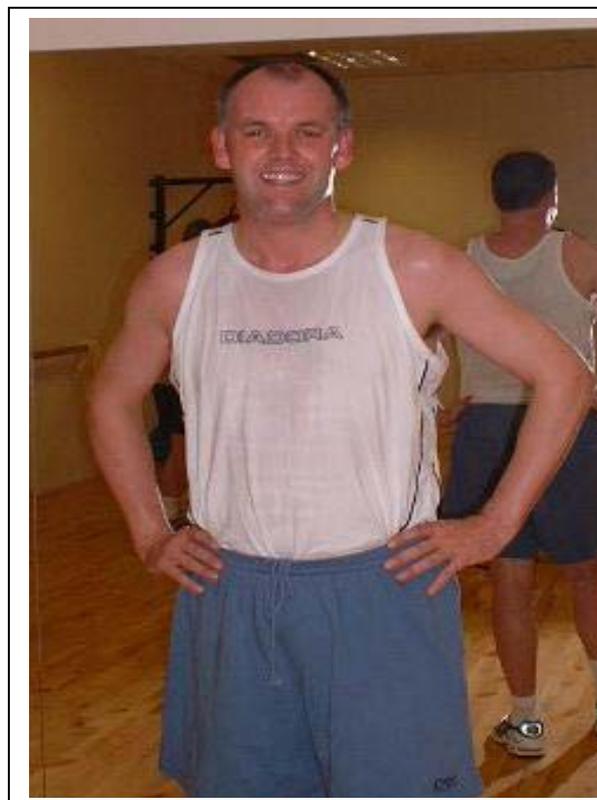
The easiest way to make a donation is on the website where I have a personal page (www.justgiving.com/oflaherty).

Donating through this site is simple, fast and totally secure. It is also the most efficient way to sponsor Andrew. SSAFA Forces Help will receive your money faster and, if you are UK taxpayer, an extra 28% in tax will be added to your gift at not cost to you.

Alternatively, you could send him a cheque (c/o Andrew O'Flaherty, 9 Park Place, London, SW1A 1LP) made payable to SSAFA Forces Help.

If you are UK taxpayer and you provide Andrew with your full name and address, SSAFA he will be able to recoup 28p in the pound from Gordon Brown.

Andrew see picture, below would like to thank you in anticipation for any donation, however small.



A Potted History of Rectory Cottage



Rectory Cottage is a grade II listed building, which is over three hundred years old and sits opposite Bec House on the road to Amport. Over the last thirty years it has been added to extensively and renovated, from what was originally a two up, two down, thatched cottage. The original part of the house can be seen at the right hand side of the picture and was built of Cob with a thatch over the beams, which can still be seen today in the attic and comprise actual branches with the bark still in place!

The first major addition was made in 1968 when the artist, Kate Williams, created a studio with a high vaulted ceiling including a minstrel's gallery, which now forms the part of building seen on the left hand side of the picture.

The next major addition was undertaken around twenty years ago by a Mr & Mrs Peter Lyons who added significantly to the cottage by building a new wing at the rear, at right angles to the rest of the cottage, this provided extra bedrooms and a kitchen, providing much needed space for the family at that time.

The current owners came to the village some five years ago and have simply updated the cottage adding a few internal modernisations. More importantly they unintentionally provided the village with a new attraction in the form of two delightful Lamas, called Chocolate Chip and Pirate, who contrary to popular belief do **not** spit, being well brought up individuals who are always keen to meet visitors.