

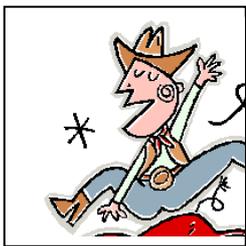


# Monxton Matters

*Editor*  
**Mike Cleugh**

*Issue 18*  
**June 2005**

## **The Hoedown at Monxton Creek** **2<sup>nd</sup> July 05, 7.00pm - 12.00pm**



### **Open Air Summer Party** **A Themed** **Event for Cowboys & Indians**



**In Aid of**

**Monxton Village Hall & Ampport School**

**To be Held at Monxton Village Hall & Bec House Field**



**Barbecue, Licenced bar**  
**Live Music & Dancing**  
**Attractions**



*Numbers are limited*

*So get your tickets early to avoid disappointment*

**Tickets in Advance (before 5th June) £10.00 adult and £5.00/child (aged 6-12)**

**Tickets after 5th June: £15.00/adult over 18 and £7.50/child (aged 6-12)**

**Tickets from: Mike Cleugh 710276, Roland Colbourne 710589, Katrina Saville 710597**



**HIGH STREET  
MONXTON  
ANDOVER SP11 8AW  
Tel: (01264) 710260**

Traditional Village Inn  
with Riverside Garden  
Serving Quality Pub Food  
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FAMILIES WELCOME  
Food Served Seven Days a Week  
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★ Senior Citizens' Lunches Mon-Wed £5.00



# DLO Paints the Village Hall



**The village hall has had a new coat of paint thanks to a team from the DLO!**

We had been speaking to the DLO for some time now regarding their kind offer to re-paint the hall and this week the task was started. The redecoration is almost complete, though there is some finishing work to be done next week. We would like to thank the DLO team, many of them volunteers, including Paul Harris, their Commanding Officer, as well as those who set the whole thing in motion. This work coupled with the gift from the Pantomime group of the new stage curtains plus the new curtains and chairs from our own resources have clearly transformed the hall. Lets' make the most of it!!!

## **Advance Notice Of Monxton Open Gardens Sunday 17th July 2.00pm to 5.30pm**

The event will be followed by Songs of Praise in the Church at 6.00pm. The organisers expect approx ten gardens to be open and there will be teas available in the village hall. Tickets at £3 will include a map of those gardens whose owners are kindly opening, as well as the tea. The church will be decorated as for a festival and a mile of copper will lead to the church, so bring your copper coins to ensure we reach the church, or even surround it.

**Help required - Villagers are invited to help make the day a success.**

Would you add your garden to the list? Can you help man the church or help with teas in the hall?

Have you cakes or scones you could donate for the teas? **If so please ring Judy Crick on 710600**

## Monxton Village Hall Forthcoming Events

### Village Hall Weekly Programme

<b>Monday Morning</b>	<b>10.30 - 12.30</b>	Arts & Crafts Group (RAGS) (Beginning April 4th)
<b>Monday Evening</b>	<b>7.30 – 9.30</b>	Jujitsu
<b>Tues. Afternoon</b>	<b>2.00-3.00pm</b>	Badminton
<b>Evening</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	Occasional meetings - Four Parishes Arts Society
<b>Wednesday, Thursday Friday:</b>		Available for social events Monxton Parish Council meeting (every 2 months)
<b>Sat. Afternoons and Evenings</b>		Available for children's parties and social events
<b>Sunday: Mornings</b>		Monthly Church coffee mornings

### Diary Dates

<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 am start to 1.00 pm</b>	<b>Annual Duck race &amp; Village Fete with stalls on the Village Green and Hog roast at the Black Swan</b>
<b>Sunday and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 – 5.00 pm</b>	'National Gardens' Open Day in Monxton Village Hall open for Cream Teas
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Hoedown at Monxton Creek, Summer party at Monxton Village Hall and Bec House Field</b>
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Open gardens (10) and decorated church in Monxton with all proceeds to the Church</b>

### FAREWELL TO MARGARET ROSS 1935 - 2005

As many of you will be aware Margaret Ross passed away recently and Monxton Matters would like to provide this brief tribute to her life in the village.

Margaret was born in Over Wallop in 1935 and went to boarding school in Princes Risborough. Margaret branched out in her early twenties when she went to work with a family in Italy in order to learn Italian. She fell in love with the country, its people, the food and the architecture and said it was her second home, becoming fluent in the language.

Michael and Margaret married in 1962 and there followed forty-three years of the happiest of marriages with their son William being born in 1964 and Matthew in 1965 moving from Cheshire to Monxton in 1985.

Margaret was an excellent calligrapher and paper marbler and an expert on the computer, producing a variety of posters, notices for the church, greetings cards and in latter years was the producer and editor of a newsletter for the U3A.

One of Margaret's aims was to be remembered as a loving and caring person. There were over 150 people in an overflowing church in Monxton at her funeral and she will be much missed by the village.

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF  
THE 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2005 at 8.00 pm**

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

**MATTERS ARISING (Abridged version)**

**Chairman Report - Monxton Parish Council**

Mrs Ryan explained in brief the South East Plan and the concerns in general relating to the number of houses to be built in the area and the impact on the infrastructure and local amenities. The Chairman also mentioned the Rothsay Hotel project. The planning application submitted to TVBC was for a secure health unit on the site. Although for the moment the application has been withdrawn, the Council is aware of the proposal and will be monitoring any future applications on this site.

This year Monxton Parish council has dealt with 11 planning applications and 13 tree applications. Mrs. Ryan explained that Mr Beattie of Monxton Nurseries won his appeal and he will be building a substantial storage and office structure. The greatest concern for Monxton is the pressure of vehicles, which an enlarged site will bring and a similar clause on size and number as that negotiated with Manor Farm has been agreed.

Mr Diplock of Manor Farm, Abbott's Ann Road has successfully obtained his retrospective planning application, however it is subject to certain conditions, which include that operations only involve lorries 7.5 tonnes or less. Any evidence of this not being the case should be reported to the Parish council.

The Chairman told the meeting that there are more children walking to school from Monxton and Amport. As a result of which Mrs Douglas, Parish Clerk has spoken to the Headmistress, Mrs Grave who will adopt the School travel safety plan. The school is very keen to do this and will be working along side HCC to increase the awareness of the children walking to school and hopefully this will lead to an increase in road safety signage.

Mrs Ryan thanked Mikael and his team at the Black Swan for their continuing support with a contribution of 50% towards the cost of Monxton Matters.

The Chairman spoke of the concerns of several residents from Sunnybank over the handing back of the allotments to TVBC. Mrs Ryan explained the rights of way issue and said she would speak to TVBC again to see if the padlock could be removed to allow access.

The Chairman spoke of Mrs Richards' resignation earlier this year from the Parish Council and expressed her thanks to Mrs Jennifer Richards for all her time and assistance over the last few years, especially with regards to planning issues.

Mrs Ryan thanked the Monxton Traffic Group (MTG) for their continuous efforts with the traffic-calming project. She acknowledged the frustration of the group on the lack of progress, but explained how the procedures and trial periods work. The Parish Council has set aside £3,000 towards the permanent implementation of traffic calming measures.

**FINANCE – STATEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/2005**

Mr. Eaglesham (having circulated a copy to each parishioner present on arrival) went through the accounts for last year. Mr Eaglesham explained that the precept had increased slightly for the year and that the bank balance as of 31/03/05 was £8,442.69.

Since this date with a net income over expenditure of another £2,026.47, the total balance in hand as of 03/05/05 is £10,469.16. Out of this amount, the Parish Council continues to set aside £5,000 for improvements to the Village Hall and has increased the amount set aside for improvements to Traffic Calming to £3,000.

## MATTERS ARISING (Abridged version continued)

### MONXTON TRAFFIC GROUP – REPORT BY MR RICHARD WILLIAMS

Mr Williams began by handing out badges and posters stating ‘Monxton demands 20mph’.

He explained that the traffic issues affects the entire village and the support of all residents is required. He explained that the MTG is working along side the Parish Council to achieve successful traffic calming measures throughout the village. Mr Williams explained their progress so far and plans for the future. It is recognised that while the increase in traffic is to be expected the speed through the village is unacceptable. The group wish to obtain a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. The group accept that progress is being made, albeit somewhat slowly but are not satisfied that further trials to the traffic calming are necessary before permanent measures can be put in place. They believe the procedure is taking too long. The group also believes that the increase in volume of traffic is partly due to the DLO expansion and therefore they should be contributing to the traffic calming measures. At the moment the DLO are not willing to contribute.

Although further trials have been promised, Mr Williams is organising a meeting with Sir George Young and Councillor Pat West. The Parish Council is not proceeding with any more trials until the outcome of this meeting.

The MTG also plan to organise a petition for signatures in favour of the 20mph limit, which will then be taken to Sir George Young in Westminster. Mr Williams has also asked that any nuisance drivers should be reported to the police immediately and that any large vehicles over the 7.5 ton limit be photographed where possible and passed to the traffic calming group. At this point Mrs Allen, a parishioner asked why the Parish Council had not done more at the time of the DLO expansion. The council advised that as the expansion was on army land, the DLO did not require planning permission.

### FOOTPATHS REPORT BY MRS HORRELL

Mrs Horrell told the meeting that the footpaths appeared to be in fairly good order and that no complaints had been received. The only possible issue concerned the bridle way at Hook Lane, which runs along the boundary with Monxton and Amport. The application by TRA is to upgrade it to a B.O.A.T, a bridle way open to all traffic. The application like many others will take time to process as there is a backlog of several years. The association has taken advantage of an anomaly in the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, which makes it possible for a road, which has historically ever been used by horse drawn vehicles to be used publicly by modern mechanised vehicles.

The government recognises the absurdity of this act and is intending to bring in legislation to stop it. Monxton Parish Council has already registered its objection. Mrs Horrell told the council that she had been told of several motorbikes using Hook Lane. Those interested in viewing the application process can obtain further information via [www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/row/map/claimslist.html](http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/row/map/claimslist.html)

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Sergeant Ashbolt of Hampshire Police gave a brief description of the restructuring of the local police force. He is based at the Stockbridge station and he confirmed that Pc. Ian Robinson is still the beat officer for Monxton. Sergeant Ashbolt told the council that all police officers are now required to wear bullet and stab proof vests when on duty. They are supplied with radios and phones and he confirmed that all calls should be directed to 0845 0454545. He explained that he was familiar with traffic calming issues within the village and confirmed that if an incident is reported to the police, where for example a lorry over the weight restriction is using the bridges illegally, then the driver can be prosecuted as long as there are two witnesses, or one witness plus photographic evidence.

## Monxton Parish Council Minutes (Abridged version)

### **VILLAGE HALL REPORT BY DAVID HODGSON**

Mr Hodgson reported on the financial status of the village hall, explaining that the hall booking income has fallen again due to the withdrawal of several regular bookers. The hall now depends on the special efforts of a few volunteers throughout the year.

The income from such events had increased substantially and Mr Hodgson wished to thank the team for their continuous effort. He also requested that more volunteers step forward to help with such events, as it is unreasonable to rely on such a small team each time.

Following the success of the cinema evenings the Parish Hall committee bought new comfortable chairs to use for such occasions. The current bank balance is £14,388.

The Hall Management Committee have decided that because the Hall's financial future is still very uncertain, it would be unwise to go ahead with any major improvements, however, the boiler may have to be replaced in the near future.

### **OPEN FORUM ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **The Padlock on the allotment gate at Sunnybank.**

Several of the residents of Sunnybank spoke concerning this matter as they feel the padlock should be removed so they have continued access through the allotment area. They feel they have a right of way. The chairman explained that a survey had been done regarding the use of the area for allotments and nobody had requested one.

She explained that it was the duty of the Parish Council to maintain the area and that as it was not used as allotments, the land had been handed back to TVBC.

The residents of Sunnybank are extremely upset and angry the situation. It was suggested that a review takes place of the situation. The chairman will follow this up.

Mr Hopkins, of Manor Farm, Monxton told the meeting that he did not mind dog walkers using his land adjacent to the allotments but that any dogs should be kept under control whilst on his land.

#### **Ivy Problems on Many Monxton Trees.**

Several parishioners have noticed the amount of ivy growing up the trees in the village. As Monxton is in a conservation area and the village wishes to preserve such trees it is suggested that at the next village clean up, the removal of such excess ivy be made a priority. A date for which will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **Thanks to Veronica Rushworth-Lund**

Mr Cleugh of the Parish council thanked Mrs Veronica Rushworth-Lund for the use of Bec House field for the forthcoming summer party on the 2nd July

#### **Dog fouling around the village.**

This is sometimes an issue around the village, and it is recognised that many walkers from outside the village walk their dogs in the vicinity.

The Chairman requested that all dog walkers respect the land and property of others and those dogs should be kept on leads where appropriate. It was agreed that the dog litterbins are not very attractive.

## **Charity Himalya Trek for SSAFA by Andrew O'Flattery (Old School House Monxton)**

Well Andrew made it and has now returned from Nepal having completed the trek along with 49 other fundraisers. It certainly was a physical challenge and he witnessed others such as a man from Gosport at the age of 76 with a titanium knee complete the challenge, which was inspiring.

The trek was certainly not comfortable. From the outset the planned route in the Everest region had to be changed because Maoist rebel activity through roadside bomb attacks made this too great a risk. The accommodation during the trek was a two man tent, nor did they have the luxury of showers or sit down toilets (just holes in the ground surrounded by canvas). A night at 3,500 metres with 3 people squeezed into a two-man tent and an outside temperature of minus 20 without the wind chill factor is not something he would wish on anybody!

Was it worth it? Yes the experience is one he will never forget. The Himalayas are stunning and on a massive scale. To trek through them and witness such beauty and the people maintaining a living by farming in this terrain can only make one admire the Nepalese all the more.

Whilst there were 47 trekkers, the support group included porters, guides and kitchen staff of 100 people. Everything had to be brought in by foot and at the higher levels that included water. To see porters wearing flip-flops carrying loads of around 100 pounds (not much less than their own body weight) clambering across boulder paths made us all feel rather inadequate.

Andrew had heard people describe the Nepalese as one of the nicest races on earth as they never stopped smiling and are so keen to ensure that they provided as best as was possible in the circumstances. This is as much to do with the fact that at the heart of Buddhism is a deep spirituality and compassion it's essence.

The return to Kathmandu (the capital of Nepal) was a complete contrast to the peace and tranquillity of the Annapurna region. It is a bustling noisy city, which has had a population explosion without the growth infrastructure of roads, sanitation and housing to cope. Many in the party had never experienced a third world country and were shocked by conditions that people lived in, yet at no stage did they feel threatened.

Whilst in Kathmandu they had the opportunity to visit two projects that SSAFA supports with children of ex British armed forces soldiers involved. The first of these, Age Group Nepal, ([www.agenepal.org.np](http://www.agenepal.org.np)) caters for children with neurological disorders (cerebral palsy and mental retardation) as well as providing emotional and practical support to their parents. Indeed, one of the clients of the centre is the daughter of an ex Ghurka soldier. The second, provided for children who are not so mentally and physically handicapped, at any one time the organisation can be providing support to 200 children and their families.

Seeing such projects makes one realise the vital role that SSAFA plays in countries abroad and just as importantly, confronting the problems and issues on our own doorsteps with our ex servicemen and their families.

Andrew would like to say a big thank you to everyone for his or her generous sponsorship. He expects the net amount raised (including gift aid) once pledges are received will be £8,125. At a time when people have given generously to such causes as the Tsunami Appeal, this is a great achievement by one and all. Thanks to all those who sponsored Andrew.

# Charity Himalaya Trek for SSAFA

