

## **WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER 20/JANUARY 21 ISSUE OF MINSTER MATTERS**

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The magazine and CD are published eleven times a year, at the beginning of each month, from February to December, inclusive.

Views expressed herein are strictly those of their author and do not necessarily agree with those of the Editors and/or the editorial team.

Subscriptions: Copies of the Magazine or CD are now available on subscription to all non-residents, worldwide. Payments are in advance: To a UK postal address: Single Issue £2.40 Annually: (11 issues) £24.00. Costs to an overseas address are available on request, and we will be pleased to quote for this service.

## **MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 12 January @ 7pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend and can arrange to speak to the Council through the Clerk or by requesting the Chairman before the start of the meeting. There is also a 15-minute period allowed at the end of the formal business to take questions from the public. Copies of the Agenda are available from the Clerk or the Parish Council website and are posted on the Parish Noticeboard in Monkton Road Car Park.

Clerk to the Council is Mrs Kyla Lamb and the Assistant Clerk is Clare Wilsdon.

The Council Office, above the library, is normally open from:

9am – 3pm weekdays; however due to commitments that require staff leaving the office it is better to ring first to ensure the office is manned.

Telephone: 821 339 : Email: [clerk@minsterparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@minsterparishcouncil.org.uk)

Parish Council Minutes are available on their website at

[www.minsterparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.minsterparishcouncil.org.uk)

## **OBITUARY**

### **William Taylor R.I.P. 03/11/20**

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of William Taylor on the 03/11/2020 after a long battle with Covid, pneumonia and COPD. The funeral took place on Friday 4th December. As he had many friends in the village his final journey was from Monkton Road into Freeman's Road and past by his favourite drinking hole the British Legion.

*Sheila, Ewan and Katy*

**COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

Dear Minster, firstly let me wish you a Happy Christmas, however you are spending it. It's a difficult choice this year and I'm personally struggling trying to decide whether to spend time with my parents on Christmas Day as they are both in their late 70s and I have children that are of primary school age, it's difficult to know what's for the best and I know it's a very personal choice, so whatever you decide to do I hope you are able to enjoy Christmas safely.

I'm lucky in a way to have that decision. Many people will be alone this Christmas so could I ask you to think about you neighbours and maybe check on them, obviously in a socially distanced way, don't kill them with kindness !

Covid means we can't do all we might want to do to help but a small gesture from you might make all the difference and remember you can always contact myself or your P.C.S.O if you have any welfare concerns.

That's It for now let's hope 2021 is a better year for everyone !

Keep safe

Regards

*Karl Aylett Community Warden 07811 271 299 Email: Karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk*

**PCSO's REPORT**

Welcome to my crime prevention advice slot. This month I would like to draw your attention to cold callers. This is where someone appears at your door offering to do work on your property. They will usually say that they are working locally and have noticed something wrong with your roof or guttering. This is followed by a sales pitch where they will offer to do the work there and then at a really good price. These persons usually target bungalows and areas with an elderly population. They rely on the fact that a lot of older persons worry about the condition of their houses and would not want them falling into disrepair. The work is usually quoted at one price and then after the job is done the price has risen dramatically. It is not just roof sometimes it is drives that are being worked on. They offer to do the job In a couple of days when it would normally take weeks to do it properly. If you have one of these types of visits politely tell them that you are not interested and seek advice from a reputable trader if you are concerned by what you have been told. Legally they should give you a cooling off period to think things over before starting work and give you a chance to pull out. These persons just want your money and rarely have any liability insurance they will not take responsibility for any damage they cause. If you think you need work doing find a reputable trader or ask friends and family for advice.

BEWARE there have been cases of delivery drivers letting themselves into properties after not getting a reply from knocking. This is not common but has been occurring.

If you notice anyone acting suspiciously contact the police on 999 or 101.

For further advice and guidance ask to speak to your PCSO.

*Adrian Butterworth*

### **ADVENT SLEEP OUT CHALLENGE**

Every year during Advent the Church Urban Fund organise a sponsored Sleep Rough Night. Sleeping outside is very challenging it make you appreciate your bed, duvet and electric blanket. Outside in a sleeping bag is toe numbingly cold, rainy and often windy. It can also be dangerous as many homeless people are very vulnerable to abuse and attack.

The donations from this initiative provide 4300 beds in England over the coldest months of the year to give the homeless a little winter cheer.

In Minster this will be our 3rd year supporting this charity. 2018 and 2019 a group of us slept in the churchyard of St Mary's church. Due to COVID and its rules 2020 will be different. Our volunteers are sleeping in their own gardens, sheds, patios etc on the 4th December.

Peter and I slept in our garage so close to the door that we got our feet wet ! And it was cold, rainy and wet. For family reasons we had to do this earlier than everyone else.

If you would like to sponsor the 4th Dec team please feel free to look at the Just Giving Page or speak/phone to Rev Richard.

Many thanks *Kate Mockeridge*

### **MINSTER FORCES FUNDRAISERS' GROUP**

Way back in March at the start of this Coronavirus we then thought and hoped that by now we would at least have been able to hold our usual meetings.

Sadly, this has not been the case, like everywhere else things have all been put on hold. It does appear as things are at the moment there is very little likelihood that anything can be done before Christmas or early next year.

Hopefully in the Spring things may have improved and we will be able to continue with our normal meetings, at which point all our ladies will be contacted.

We will however be sending a donation to the Poppy Appeal from our funds, also we would like to thank everyone who has supported us in the past.

In the meantime, we send everyone best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, but above all 'Stay safe'.

*Doreen, Marian and Jean*

### **MINSTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Unfortunately, due to the latest Covid-19 restrictions we have not been able to get together. In fact, our French friends in Armbouts-Cappel have had to live with even tighter restrictions than us.

However, some of us were able to attend the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial in Minster Cemetery, where we laid two wreaths, one on behalf of Minster Twinning Association and one on behalf of Armbouts-Cappel. Our wreath was made of traditional Poppies whereas the one laid on behalf of the French was Poppies interwoven with blue Cornflowers, these being the traditional flowers in France.

On Armistice Day, Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> November, villagers in Armbouts-Cappel laid a wreath on behalf of Minster Twinning Association at their ceremony.

Hopefully we can enjoy some kind of Christmas and by the next issue of Minster Matters we are able to report a big improvement to our lives.

### **Insect 'Bee & Bee'**

I really enjoyed the article by Karen and Nik in the August edition about encouraging wildlife into your garden. We have been gardening for wildlife for many years and have felt privileged to share our space with a variety of Creatures great and small.

After installing a bee nesting box in the border and waiting with bated breath every time a bee flew nearby, a Red tailed Bumble Bee Queen, decided to build her empire right in the middle of the lawn, where we walk, I put an upturned, metal hanging basket over the hole so we wouldn't tread on any bees emerging but after tripping over it we resorted to going the long way round.

This year has been unusual for the amount of birds that keep coming indoors. My husband had to rescue a baby wren that had fluttered on to the dresser, a baby sparrow from the mantelpiece and we've had so many blackbirds in the kitchen I could have baked a pie! A female sparrowhawk hunts in our gardens, often appearing out of nowhere, like a missile, to take a bird from the bird feeders. Just a tell tale pile of feathers left on the grass. My neighbour will call out to us to say "we've had murder on the dance floor again!"

Last week we had a Hummingbird Hawk moth darting amongst the flowers, I filmed it in slow motion but its wings were still beating quickly !

During the summer I made a Bug hotel on a grand scale. Over the years I have kept all old bird boxes and small wooden homes for insects, butterflies, ladybirds and bees, in the hope I could use them again. A bug hotel, perfect!

I also used old lanterns filled with fir cones, an old clay pipe, kindly donated by our lovely neighbours, a couple of old bird's nests, flowerpots filled with hay and an old coconut shell. Whilst building, a baby hedgehog appeared so I had to add a hedgehog box in case it's needed.

I recycled old wood and tree branches that we had and a couple of co-op carrier bags help to insulate the roof.

We have resident insects that have 'booked in' including a False Widow spider who is enjoying breakfast in bed!

The resident vole and mouse population keep taking out the fir cones and leaving them around the garden.

Bug hotels don't need to be large, just enough space for small creatures to shelter.

*Rachel Miles*

### **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Karen and Ann would like to thank everyone who came along and helped with the Christmas Trees this year. They certainly bring a lovely warm feeling to the village as you pass through. A lot of people came along to help put the lights on which made the task easier and quicker. With only 3 ladder teams they really worked hard getting them all up and working. Thanks also to Roger Thompson who checks and repairs the lights every year and also helps maintain them while they are up during the Christmas period. This is a great community project started many years ago by Chris Holdom, Ann Thomson and Karen Brazil. We are proud to say it has become a great village tradition and will continue to do so for years to come.

*Happy Christmas from all of us*

## **MANSTON LORRY PARK CONCERNS**

I live in Minster, which is next to Manston airport where I was born and next to the proposed site for holding of up to 4,000 HGVs. Minster is a quiet village, where I was hoping to spend my retirement in clean air and no noise pollution, as I had experienced when I lived and worked in London.

I and my husband have very strong concerns about the proposed plan. My husband is a healthcare professional, and his travel to and from his hospital is most likely to be affected by the predictable congestion.

1. **Congestion:** Impact on people and children travelling by road to work, schools and shops. The emergency ambulance service may also be affected. The current plan involves a lorry exit onto the east-bound A299 (Hengist Way), close to the Minster roundabout, increasing the risk of collisions and even more congestion.

2. **Pollution:** As a consequence of an increase in congestion and up to 4,000 HGVs/ lorries, the impact on air quality and increased noise pollution will have a detrimental effect on the local nature and population. This is also at the time of the pandemic.

3. **Public health:** Apart from the pollution, there is an unresolved situation of welfare and toileting/ washing facilities for lorry drivers. Manston airport facilities are inadequate for up to 4,000 drivers. Concerns about these matters have been already highlighted before (<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/nov/12/post-brex-it-lorry-queues-could-make-kent-toilet-of-england>), with human waste becoming an inevitable consequence of drivers not being able to use adequate toilet facilities.

The current proposal/ plan is short on detail, addressing these issues only in a general way. At the time of writing, we are 6 weeks from Brexit deadline and possible implementation of the Operation Brock.

## **RESPONSE FROM MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL**

The Manston Airport Inland Border Facility has been proposed since the first dates of Brexit were anticipated, so a great deal of planning has taken place. There are few large areas of land suited to such use and Manston Airport has been used to good effect during its long history, so this is just another brief stage in that history when it can be of use.

Firstly, it will only be used if a Brexit deal has not been reached.

Secondly, Operation Brock has multiple phases depending on the scale of disruption; if there is excessive disruption on the M20 only then will Manston Airport be deployed.

The leaflet sent to local residents sets out some of the plans and these include the information on how the drivers and the vehicles will be managed.

There will be ample welfare facilities on site for the drivers providing toilet and washing facilities. This is essential as drivers will remain on site.

Vehicles will not be allowed to idle or run auxiliary generators on site, with power supplies being provided for refrigerated vehicles.

Environmental studies are being carried out and will continue should the site be brought into use.

Some traffic disruption is inevitable in that there will be road closures along parts of Spitfire Way and Manston Road but these will be minor in comparison with the congestion that would be caused on all of East Kent's roads if Manston were not used.

The arrival of the HGVs will be managed in phases and monitored at every point so any adjustments can be made sooner rather than later. We are assured that road safety is a priority for Highways England and for the Dept. of Transport so every point of entry and access will be staffed.

In summary, we hope that a Brexit deal makes the use of Manston Airport unnecessary but if it is deployed as much as possible has been done to mitigate the impact on our local area.

## **Minster Parish Council Meeting Summary of Meeting on 3rd November, 2020 Held via Zoom**

Our meeting was held remotely via Zoom and in view of the current restrictions this will be the way of things for some time.

We began with Community Warden Karl Aylett who reported that October had been generally quiet. There had been a number of welfare checks, warnings about rogue traders and some fly tipping. Cllr. Day was disappointed at the defacing of some of the 'Social distancing' banners while Cllr. Crow-Brown expressed gratitude for the prompt response by Police to a report of suspicious males at the Spitfire Museum.

District Cllr. Roper had attended a meeting about the use of Manston Airport as part of OP. Brock, using it for lorries heading for Dover Port. The application will be for an order to last 6 months to use the airport as an Inland Border Facility. The Covid-19 testing will continue at this location until at least March, 2021.

In relation to the re-opening of Manston as an operational airport, work on the runway is expected to begin in 2021 with an airport opening date in 2023.

At the time of this meeting the lockdown was just about to commence and there was discussion about the closure of some public toilets, the continued use of Waste and Recycling centres and the closure of outdoor facilities except for children's play areas. We confirmed that the public toilets in Minster would remain open. There was mention of additional funding via TDC for businesses affected by lockdown.

Cllr. Pugh was not present but sent a written update explain that the planning application to build 214 houses on the land west of Tothill Street would soon be decided. It was reported that this would not be brought before the Planning Committee but Cllr. Pugh has made representation to have this decision reversed, so it is anticipated that it will be before the committee in the near future.

He also said that if bins are missed on the usual waste collection day we should leave them out as they should be collected the following day.

The Chairman said that in the absence of a street cleaner our remaining staff would do their best to keep the streets clear of litter but if any volunteer litter pickers were willing to help it would be much appreciated. (The vacancy for a street cleaner is being advertised elsewhere in this magazine.)

Once again the brick pillar at the entrance to the Monkton Road Car Park has been damaged by a vehicle and the meeting agreed to reduce the length of the wall and fencing to allow a wider entrance, and install a capped metal post, in the hope of preventing further accidents.

Cllr. Burden was pleased to report that 12 people had expressed an interest in the 'Shed Project' aimed at encouraging men to avoid isolation by becoming involved in healthy social participation. He has worked hard to establish how to progress the project and Cllr. Quittenden has agreed that, post lockdown, he will contact Minster Abbey to discuss how they may be able to assist with premises in which to base the project.

Cllr. Jones had kindly purchased wild flower seed and bee houses. It was agreed that wild flower planting should take place in the outer areas of the car park in the High Street, on the bund planned for the skate park, and on an area at the rear of the cemetery, the latter also being used for bee housing.

Cllr. McCarthy explained that there was some uncertainty as to whether the Minster Show would be able to go ahead in 2021, but the committee would monitor the situation and make a decision in the New Year. If they reluctantly decided that it could not go ahead they muted the idea of a simpler event such as a 'Picnic in the Park', similar to that which had been planned for the VE Day celebrations, in conjunction with the Parish Council. It was decided that this would be brought back to the meeting once a decision had been made by the show committee.

The Chairman explained that, having sought pre-application advice, a planning application could be submitted to build a parish office over the top of the garage area adjacent to the pavilion in the recreation ground; the meeting agreed to progress the application.

A debate took place about the issue of parking in the area of the slip road to the east of Tothill Street. It was decided that a suggestion of reducing the width of the grass verge to increase road width at this point would be added to the Highways Improvement Plan submitted to KCC.

Minster Parish Council would like to wish all of our residents a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year, as much as current constraints allow. This year has not been easy for many yet the strength of neighbourhood ties and community goodwill has been heartening. We hope this will continue into 2021 and show how we can come together in adversity and emerge stronger than ever. Take care and stay safe.

## **PATIENT LIAISON GROUP**

### **A BIG Thank You!**

As we approach the end of a very difficult year for everyone, we would like to thank all our patients and friends for their support and understanding, and especially for all the gifts and donations that many of you have given throughout this Pandemic, it really does mean a great deal to everyone at the surgery.

### **COVID-19**

\* If you have any of the following symptoms:

New persistent cough; Loss of taste/smell; High temperature - Call 119 to book a test!

\* If you have symptoms, tested positive or are self-isolating, PLEASE DO NOT VISIT THE SURGERY but call 111 if you require further assistance.

\* Want to check on cases in your area? Download the NHS Covid App

\* Returning from abroad? Visit gov.uk for the latest advice.

\* Please Remember: **“Wash Hands”“Cover Face”“Make Space”** and stay safe!

### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS**

Please note the surgery’s open/closed arrangements over the Christmas period:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December	AM Normal opening hours PM Emergencies Only
Christmas Day Friday 25th December	- Closed all day
Boxing Day Saturday 26th December	- Closed all day
Bank Holiday Monday 28th December	- Closed all day
Tuesday 29th December	- Normal opening hours
Wednesday 30th December	- Normal opening hours
New Year’s Eve Thursday 31st December	AM Normal opening hours PM Emergencies only
New Year’s Day Friday 1st January	- Closed all day
Monday 4th January onwards	- Normal opening hours

Please note: Some dates/times may be subject to change dependent on Covid-19 restrictions and NHS England requirements.

Should you need to see a Doctor during times when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service direct on 111 where you will receive non-urgent confidential health advice and information for you and your family.

\* For urgent/life threatening cases, please dial 999 as normal.

\* For Covid-19 symptoms or book a test call 119

### **REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS**

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you throughout the holiday period and that all “Repeat Prescription Requests” are submitted in good time to allow for the increased demand, both at the surgery and at the various pharmacies, and remember to check your local pharmacy’s opening times as well. Also ensure that if your prescription is due during the holiday period or if you are going away, check that it will be available for collection in advance before Christmas.

Obviously, we appreciate that urgent prescriptions may still be needed at any time.

Also, if your “MEDICATION REVIEW” is due during this period please ensure you make an appointment in good time, to avoid further unnecessary delays.

If you have any concerns please contact the surgery direct on 821333

### **PATIENT GROUP MEETINGS**

Due to the limited access to the surgery, we are currently holding our meetings using video conferencing. However, if you have any issues you would like to raise or require further information on any of the above, then please contact either Ken Self on 821200, Jeanne Lawrence on 821049 or email kenself@me.com

**AMBER'S ADVICE**

"Even if you are on the right track you will get run over if you just sit there"

**TIGER'S TIP**

Paint Tip – Drill holes in the paint stirrer before using, this helps to mix paint thoroughly. The holes help the paint to flow through the stirrer, aerating it like a whisk and mixing the paint evenly.

**WANTSUM BENEFICE**

We are open for prayer and worship – join us online or in church!

Sunday 6 December	Sunday 13 December	Sunday 20 December
9.30 Chislet	9.30 Monkton	9.30 Chislet
10.30 St Nicholas	10.30 Minster	10.30 St Nicholas

***Christmas Eve 24 December***

***(NB: Minster services need to be reserved in advance)***

9.30pm	Minster	Holy Communion	(To book: <a href="mailto:info@wantsumchurches.org">info@wantsumchurches.org</a> )
11.30pm	Minster	Holy Communion	or ring 07791 351 599)
11.30pm	St Nicholas	Holy Communion	(No pre-booking required)

***Christmas Day 25 December (no booking needed - just come along!)***

9.30am	Monkton	10.30am	Minster	10.30am	St Nicholas
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***Churches open during Christmas:***

Monkton	24-27 December	9.30am-4.00pm
Minster	24-27 December	9.30am-4.00pm
St Nicholas	24-27 December	9.30am-4.00pm

You are welcome to come in, find peace, kneel at the crib and share in the Christmas story with comfort and joy

Sunday 27 December	Sunday 3 January	Sunday 10 January
9.30 Monkton	9.30 Chislet	9.30 Monkton
10.30 Minster	10.30 St Nicholas	10.30 Minster

Sunday 17 January	Sunday 24 January	Sunday 31 January
9.30 Chislet	9.30 Monkton	9.30 Chislet
10.30 St Nicholas	10.30 Minster	10.30 St Nicholas

Services of said Holy Communion in the Wantsum Benefice:

9 December	23 December	6 January	20 January
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Midweek Service of said Holy Communion (BCP) held at Minster Wednesday 10.30am:  
4 November, 18 November, 2 December, 16 December



**Churches open for prayer and reflection**

Minster: Sunday 2-4pm; Tuesday & Thursday 10am-12pm

St Nicholas: Sunday, Tuesday 2-4pm & Thursday 10am-12pm

Monkton: Sunday 2-4pm

**Church Online**

Church online - informal worship

on our YouTube Channel (Wantsum Benefice) – every Sunday

Daily Newsletter – with reading & reflection and links to other events –

To receive this, email: [info@wantsumchurches.org](mailto:info@wantsumchurches.org)

Monday-Friday Morning Prayer 9.00am & Evening Prayer 5.00pm on Facebook Live

Facebook: St Mary's Church, Minster-in-Thanel or St Nicholas at Wade Church

If you wish to talk to someone, need support or would welcome prayer

please contact: Reverend Richard Braddy

01843 821250 [www.wantsumchurches.org](http://www.wantsumchurches.org) [info@wantsumchurches.org](mailto:info@wantsumchurches.org)

**Advent Tree Celebration**

Minster Churchyard

For each of the four Sundays in Advent,

a different tree in the churchyard will be (lightly) decorated by groups from the village:  
a lime tree, two yew trees and a manna ash tree.

For Advent Sunday – 29th November – the W.I.

For 6th December – Barbara Quittenden and 'team'.

For 13th December – 'Little Explorers', Minster Day Nursery and Minster School.

For 20th December – the church team.

Just a little something to help brighten our days as we journey towards Christmas.

**CONTACTING YOUR DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

District Councillor Reece Pugh tel: 07740 288 713

District Councillor David Hart tel: 07976 830 171

District Councillor Trevor Roper tel: 07787 860 381

Kent County Councillor Emma Dawson tel: 07976 804 113

Kent County Councillor Liz Hurst tel: 07453 328 104

Contacting your MP - Sir Roger Gale MP tel: 01843 848 588

Email: [galerj@parliament.uk](mailto:galerj@parliament.uk) - write: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Thank you for listening - your readers this month were:-

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Musical interludes supplied courtesy of  
Brenda Saker, Daryl Booth and Richard Spendlove MBE