

## **WELCOME TO THE MARCH 2020 ISSUE OF MINSTER MATTERS**

The Editors accept all advertisements, articles and notices in good faith and actively encourage the support of the local traders and services. However, we cannot be held responsible for the quality of goods or services offered.

Please mention the magazine when replying to advertisers.

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 3 March @ 7pm in the Neighbourhood Centre

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 both 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)

## **MINSTER'S MINI CELEBRITIES**

Mum, Rebecca Goddard, contacted Minster Matters introducing us to her two daughters Caitlin, who attends Minster Primary and Skylar, who goes to Minster Nursery.

Caitlin is 9 years old and won Junior Face of Europe and the World in November after raising £2300 for Headway East Kent in 6 months.

Skylar is 4 years old and recently won Mini Miss Atlantic 2020/21 and will be attending Reading for the finals in January to meet her sister queens.

The girls will be attending local fayres and raising more money for Headway East Kent and MIND through the Summer.

I'm sure you'll join us in wishing the girls the very best of luck with their ventures this year and a huge well done for all their fund-raising efforts so far.

**MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL – SUMMARY OF MEETING ON Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

- PCSO Butterworth began the meeting with a summary of recent crimes and incidents.
- There have been some number plate thefts recently and these are connected to an increase in vehicles making off without payment from the Co-op petrol station. He advised everyone to check their vehicles before leaving home.
- Most recently there had been a theft of cash from the Post Office and a burglary at Attwell's Newsagents. Nothing was taken at Attwell's but around 4am on Sunday morning Mr. Attwell disturbed two men who had removed the glass in the front door and were trying to climb in. The Chairman expressed concern that despite the police being called at the time no-one attended until PCSO Butterworth came on duty later that morning. His attendance was much appreciated by Clive and his staff but the Chairman said she would write to Kent Police about this lack of initial response.
- There were no County or District Councillors present at the meeting. County Councillor Hurst did send a written report setting out the increases planned in police officers and staff across the County and their intention to focus on county lines drug activity, crime prevention, schools and investigations amongst other things.
- The Chairman reminded the meeting that there are two vacancies for Parish Councillors at the moment and asked all councillors to encourage anyone who expresses an interest.
- The Clerk reported that, after some difficulties with the All Weather Pitch surface, remedial work has been carried out and the pitch is now on the FA Register for a further 3 years.
- Preparations are ongoing for the VE Day celebrations on 8th May when there will be a 'Picnic in the Park'. The Chairman hoped that local families and friends would bring their own picnics and enjoy the musical entertainment and a children's entertainer, all free of charge. There will also be a licensed bar in the Pavilion and other items of interest. As we approach the day it is hoped that councillors will all help to make the day a success. We just need some fine weather!
- Cllr. Sharp has now pruned all the trees in the Orchard (just north of the children's play area) but two trees are missing and two broken. She had carried out research and found the best price for replacement fruit trees and it was agreed that these should be purchased. She also suggested that to prevent damage in the future a small sign should be placed there prohibiting ball games in that part of the field. This was also agreed. Cllr. Sharp was thanked for the work she has been doing to improve the orchard and other green areas in the village.
- In the public question time at the end of the meeting the lack of street lighting at the end of Prospect Road was raised and this will be brought to the notice of KCC Highways.
- There was a welcome for efforts to retain the temporary bridge across the Stour on the Marshes. (Unfortunately, further information has made it clear that this would not be possible.)
- A resident of Molineux Road thanked the council for the works carried out in their road to plant trees and improve the verges; sadly, there are ongoing issues with vehicles on the verges but the chairman appreciated their acknowledgement and agreed to monitor the situation.
- There was then a discussion about seeking locations to plant more trees in Minster, whether it be on verges or other open areas.

## MINSTER W.I.

At our February meeting we were joining in with the NFWI and the climate coalition's 'Show the Love' campaign which highlights the effects of climate change. Debs Shanley, our speaker, gave us lots of information (3,000 tonnes of kitchen roll waste is created every day!!!!) and tips on how to help to protect our planet.

### Dates for the diary

10th March WI Meeting - Penny Gimes from Minster Parish Council - 'It isn't over yet'

28th March Wine and Wisdom - Minster Village Hall. For tickets

contact Liz on 07968 473 689

29th March Great British Spring Clean

14th April WI Meeting - Judy Knight - WW2

We always like to see new members so if you would like to come along but want more details please contact Liz on 07968 473689

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month starting at 7.30pm in Minster Village Hall.

## MINSTER BOWLS

Besides our normal monthly activities of roll ups for non-team members and internal or external competitions, we have entertained other village organisations.

We believe this sport gives gentle exercise at the same time enjoyment meeting other people.

The Minster W.I. ladies had an introduction to the sport on a Saturday morning. They found it gave a few laughs, a challenge at first, but very enjoyable.

Village Voices Community Choir will also have visited us by the time you are reading this. If any company or other organisation wants a "Bonding" with their staff please make contact. As you can see, we love to have visitors to try the sport.

We have also had 12 pupils from the school every Friday afternoon encouraging them to try a sporting activity.

*Glynne Hibbert (on behalf of the Club Secretary)*

## **SKEETER, The Naughty Shopping Bag and Tale of The MISSING TEETH**

It was after reading my stories that my youngest grandson James suggested that I should get them published, how to go about it I wasn't sure until I mentioned it to one of my friends in the Red Hat Society, who said that her husband would publish them.

Spending weeks perfecting the illustrations for the books whilst on holiday, and after proof reading them they were ready for publishing in early December.

For me it has been an exciting experience and one that I never thought would come to fruition.

The book is available on Amazon, the proceeds going to the children's hospice Demelza house.

Recipes at the end are included in the stories. I am looking forward to my grandson's approval with more books that are in the pipeline.

*Rosemary Saunders*

## **KARL AYLETT COMMUNITY WARDEN**

### **Hello Minster**

My first month in Minster and Monkton has flown by, it's been great to speak to lots of you, I've had a varied month everything from a trapped sheep that had been worried by a dog to visiting a scam victim with Trading Standards

I'm going to try to share with you a few of the things I do each month, as sometimes this role is hard to explain, and I'd like you to know how I could potentially help you or someone you know.

So, this month I have reported fly tipping to the council, investigated a report of a sheep tangled in some bushes, tried to help some neighbours that were in dispute, reported offensive graffiti at the skate park which was very quickly removed by the parish council and have also made welfare visits on behalf of Social Services and Trading Standards.

I've been working closely with your P.C.S.O. Adrian Butterworth who I know is going to write about the ever-present danger of scams in his piece for *Minster Matter*.

I'd like to encourage you to use the 101 phone number or website, because if you have only put in on Facebook or even if you have told me, Adrian won't be able to deal with it unless it is reported officially.

Any way thanks for reading, I look forward to seeing you soon ..... the sheep was ok by the way !!

*Karl Aylett Community Warden*

**My contact details are mobile: 07811 271 299**

**Email: [Karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk)**

## **TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT**

On the 17th January, eight of us travelled across to Armbouts-Cappel to attend the Mayor's speech, a very important date in their village diary. Although we don't understand a lot of what's said, we feel it is right that we attend such an important occasion. Most of their village attend and we are made to feel welcome guests. On the same evening we were invited into the church for the blessing of new windows.

By the time you are reading this we will have had our quiz evening, which looks like being another sell out event.

Finally, we have been asked by a lady from Armbouts-Cappel if anyone in Minster would like to become a pen friend. She is 63 years and speaks good English. Her hobbies are collecting magnets, stamps, postcards and thimbles.

If you are interested please ring Lindsay Thacker on 01843 821759 or email [lindsayhf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindsayhf@yahoo.co.uk) for details.

## A Brief History of the RAF Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum

The RAF Manston Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum was created by the Royal Air Force when our Spitfire, which arrived in 1955 as the airfield "Gate Guardian", went for restoration in 1977 at Rochester Airfield.

A fund was started within Thanet, for local donations, which raised £35,000 to enable the construction of the Spitfire Hall; which was opened in 1981.

Our Spitfire is a 1944 built model Mk. XVI LF fighter-bomber TB752 and was built at the Vickers Castle Bromwich factory near Birmingham. The engine is a Packard Merlin built in the USA. The armaments are x3 bombs totalling 1000 pounds or 420 Kgs.; plus in each wing there are a single 20mm Hispano cannon and a pair of American designed 0.50" Browning machine guns.

She was issued to 66 Sqn. RAF and performed her first combat operation against some railway yards on March 19<sup>th</sup> 1945, flown by Dick Edwards. Soon after this mission she had a landing accident, which damaged a wing and propeller. After repairs, she was issued to 403 Sqn. Royal Canadian Air Force.

She was one of the squadrons spare aircraft and flown by 15 pilots, including the boss, Sqn. Ldr. Hank Zary. She genuinely did shoot down x4 Luftwaffe aircraft, with different pilots. The last was a Heinkel bomber on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1945. This action was painted for us by Michael Turner, when President of the Guild of Aviation Artists, and is displayed in our Museum.

The Spitfire is displayed exactly as she finished WW2 on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945, in the Canadian colours; with the x4 kills displayed by the cockpit and the Squadrons "Wolf's Head" crest. To my knowledge, we have the only Spitfire displayed as a bomber in the whole world.

The Manston Hurricane is a model Mk. IIc and came to the Museum after being displayed at the HQ of RAF 11 Group, Bentley Priory, near Stanmore in Middlesex. She went for restoration at Rochester, before arrival at Manston in 1987. She was built as a tank/train destroyer – armed with x4 20mm Hispano cannon. She survived the war because she was used in the pilot training role and never went into war action.

When the RAF decided to display the aircraft at RAF Manston, they started another public donation fund to establish the new Hurricane Hall. The public donated £100,000. Only the land for both halls was provided by the M.O.D., which was already on the military airfield. The Hurricane Hall was opened by Dame Vera Lynn.

The aircraft was originally painted in training colours, but then the RAF decided they wanted a lot of replicas. A contract was placed to use our Hurricane as the master mould, for the female casting. When it removed, the RAF discovered all the paint and Irish linen had been wrecked. She had to be recovered and repainted.

It was at this time the RAF decided to commemorate the practice invasion of Northern France, now called the "Dieppe Raid"; known as Operation Jubilee on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1942. Our Hurricane is painted to replicate the 1<sup>st</sup> RAF aircraft over the beaches of Dieppe, at dawn on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> landing, mainly by Canadian soldiers. This action was, I believe, when the 1<sup>st</sup> American soldiers died in action in Europe after the 1941 Pearl Harbour attack. This action was a "Glorious Failure", because it taught the Allies that x2 years and not x1 year would be required to succeed with a D-Day Invasion.

Our aircraft represents the Hurricane BN230 flown by Sqn. Leader "Danny" Le Roy du Vivier. He was the Commander of 43 (F) Squadron, flying from RAF Tangmere, near Chichester. He was a pre-war pilot with the Belgium Air Force and believe to be the 1<sup>st</sup> Belgium member to command an RAF Squadron.

Danny was actually Dutch Flemish by nationality, born in Amersfoort, Holland in 1915. He completed x4 attack sorties over to Dieppe during that day, but due to battle damage, he changed his aircraft for another. He was awarded the DFC and Bar, plus other awards. Replicas of his personal painted plaques are displayed on the fuselage by the cockpit, on both sides of the aircraft. The Museum has an original plaque, his flying jacket and logbook.

He was seriously injured in Sicily during combat in his right leg. He finished the war as a Wing Commander. After the war he became Director of the Aviation Division of Belgium Shell. He died in a car crash on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1981.

Our final big display is the "Channel Dash" Memorial, which commemorates the heroism on February 12<sup>th</sup> 1942 of x18 Fleet Air Arm crewmen of 825 Naval Air Sqn. Led by Lt. Cmdr. Eugene Esmonde, the x6 Fairey Swordfish aircraft took off from RAF Manston, to attack the German battleships "Scharnhorst" and "Gneisenau"; and the heavy battle-cruiser "Prinz Eugen" as the steamed past us. All the aircraft failed to return and only x5 men were rescued from the sea. We have on display the watch worn by a survivor, Lt. Samples; which stopped at the exact time he crashed into the sea.

This event is commemorated every year at our Museum by the FAA Association. This year the wreath was laid by Rear Admiral John Roberts CB FAA age 95. He served from 1941 until 1978, including the aircraft carriers HMS Eagle and HMS Ark Royal. The Exhortations were by Lt. Keith Quilter DSC FAA RN, age 98; who flew Corsairs and Seafires during WW2. Please come along and see all of our unique exhibits.

*Marcus Russell – Trust Chairman*

### **Volunteer Appeal**

Are you green fingered? Do you like meeting new people?

If you have spare morning or afternoon a week and would like to spend it supporting a local charity, we would love to hear from you!

We currently have some volunteer vacancies at The Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum in our shop team and also our gardening team.

If you're interested in finding out more pop into the museum for an application form or email: [manager@spitfiremuseum.org.uk](mailto:manager@spitfiremuseum.org.uk)

## MINSTER PLAYHOUSE PROMPT CORNER

*Duets* by Peter Quilter, our May Play for 2020, is now in rehearsal and going well with a strong cast.

This is a play with four pairs of characters, and four crucial moments ...

Jonathan and Wendy are on a blind date and hoping to get it right this time even though they've never got it right before...

Barrie is not really interested in women, but Janet sees that as no reason to stop trying...

Shelley and Bobby have decided to holiday in Spain to finalize their divorce whilst drowning in cocktails...

and Angela is marrying for the third time, to the dismay of her brother Toby, and amidst a barrage of bad omens and a dress resembling a parachute.

The result is a gloriously funny examination of the chaotic world of love, relationships and why the grass is never greener.

"Quilter's understanding of human desires and quirks is on show and probed so endearingly ... A warm and funny exploration of love and other bruises" ~ Daily Telegraph.

The show runs at the Village Hall from

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of May at 7.30pm.

The Box Office is open on **07501 894381**

email: [info@minsterplayhouse.co.uk](mailto:info@minsterplayhouse.co.uk)

## PCSO's REPORT

Welcome to my crime prevention advice slot. I would like to draw your attention to incidents of fraud which are getting more and more frequent with persons calling you on the phone. These calls are commonly directed towards elderly persons perhaps living on their own. They usually call claiming to be bank staff, police officer or other officials claiming there has been a fraud on your account and that you will need to take urgent action. They are very convincing. It has been known for them to say you may be committing an offence if you do not co-operate. This is not the case it is a SCAM.

Remember the bank or police will never

- Phone you and ask for your 4 digit card PIN or your online banking password.
- Ask you to withdraw money for them
- Ask you to transfer money to a new account for fraud reasons
- Send someone to your home to collect your cash, PIN, payment card or cheque book.

If you get a call like this hang up and wait a few minutes for the line to clear then call your bank or card issuer to alert them of the scam.

You can also contact Action Fraud on 03001232040 or use their reporting tool at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

If you have any concerns about this type of crime feel free to speak to me when you see me out and about. Or call 101 and ask me to contact you.

**PATIENT LIAISON GROUP**NEW ONLINE CONSULTATION and INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Now being launched across all GP Surgeries in Thanet, "eConsult" is free to use for all NHS patients in which you can ask your GP surgery about health concerns, ongoing treatments, even request letters or medical certificates.

For further information please visit [econsult.net](http://econsult.net) and login to Patients/Minster Surgery.

NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

Following the success of our Christmas Bazaar and your generous donations, we are looking to purchase the following new equipment:

FOR OUR NURSING TEAM: Two 'State of the Art' Fibre Optic Oscopes to assist in the better diagnosis of ear infections.

FOR OUR GPs: Two Paediatric Handheld Pulse Oximeters to assist in obtaining more accurate diagnostic readings with young children and infants.

SURGERY CLOSURE DAYS

Staff Training - from midday onwards:

Thursday 28th March, Wednesday 15th May.

Bank Holidays - all day - Good Friday 10th April, Easter Monday 23rd April

Should you need to see a doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service direct on 111, to receive non-urgent confidential health advice and information for you and your family. For urgent/life threatening issues, please dial 999 as normal.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

Difficulty in making an appointment for a blood test, blood pressure or ear problems?

No wonder: 52 patients did not attend their nurse's appointment and 26 did not attend their doctor's appointment, so that's 78 missed and wasted appointments. So, a plea, to all our patients – Don't need it? Cancel it! It's so easy by phone, text or online – just do it please!

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SURVEY

All practices have to submit a monthly report to NHS England of their "Friends and Family" responses and we report these figures regularly in this newsletter for your information:

Last month A total of 276 patients responded to "Would you recommend our Practice" as follows: Extremely likely/Likely - 96%; Extremely unlikely/Unlikely - 4%; Unsure/Don't know – 0

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our next meeting or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Ken Self on 821200, Jeanne Lawrence on 821049 or email [kenself@me.com](mailto:kenself@me.com)

**MINSTER & MONKTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

Monthly Club Coffee Morning – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 12noon

Homemade cake and unlimited drinks – just £5

Guests welcomed when signed in by a member



**MENS SUPPER CLUB MEETING**

Wednesday 11th March 7pm for 7.30pm Old Schools, Church St., Minster  
The Men's Supper Club Meeting.

Home cooked dinner and dessert and after dinner entertainment. £8.50

Phone Peter on 01843 447 692 or 07981 184 224 to book your place

**MINSTER AND MONKTON GARDENING CLUB**

Mini-Show, Plant Sales and Table Quiz

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm in the Village Hall

**MINSTER ART & CRAFT GROUP**

We meet at the Old Schools every Monday morning from 9.00am to 12.30pm.

We are a friendly and sociable non-teaching group ranging from artists to all types of crafters, all of whom are ready to give help and advice if requested. The charge per week is £2.00 to cover the hall and includes refreshments. You are welcome to come along for a free morning session to see what we are doing. Any queries - call Ann on 01843 821 152.

**AMBER'S ADVICE**

Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom. (George S. Patton).

**TIGER'S TIP**

**SANITIZE TOYS** - Get rid of germs and grime on plastic toys, clean them in dishwasher using vinegar instead of dishwasher tablets.

**CHURCH NEWS AND SERVICE TIMES**

**The Catholic Parish** of Ramsgate and Minster

Father Christopher Basden - telephone 592 071

Mass daily at 9.00am and Sunday at 10.00am in Minster Abbey

**Minster Abbey** - The Abbey Chapel is open for prayer throughout the day

Lauds: 8.30am      Mass 9.00am, Sunday 10.00am      Midday Prayer 12.10pm

Vespers 6.00pm      Compline 7.50pm (followed by silent prayer)

**The Salvation Army Minster Corps Church & Community Centre**

Captains Luke and Katy Johnson telephone: 821 543

Mondays 2.15pm Friendship Club    Tuesdays 9.30am Sunny Tots (birth to 5yrs) (term time only)    Wednesdays 2.00pm Home League    Thursdays 9.15am Prayer Group

Sundays 10.30am Family Worship

**St Mary Magdalene Monkton Services in March**

- 1 10.15am Holy Communion  
 8 10.15am Family Worship  
 15 10.15am Holy Communion and Annual Meeting  
 22 4.00pm Seamark Service – new worship for all  
 29 10.00am Service at St Nicholas (no Service at Monkton today)

**St Mary the Virgin, Minster Services in March**

- 1 9.00am Holy Communion  
 3.00pm Family Praise Service  
 6.00pm Compline sung by Sisters from Minster Abbey @ St Mary's  
 8 9.00am Holy Communion  
 10.30am All-age Worship with Holy Communion  
 15 9.00am Holy Communion  
 10.30am All-age Worship  
 22 9.00am Holy Communion  
 10.30am All-age Worship with Holy Communion  
 29 10.00am Service at St Nicholas – no Service at St Mary's today

**Wednesday mornings at St Mary's**

10.30am - Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Holy Communion at home is available for anyone who is unable to access Minster or Monkton Church telephone 821 250 or 822 428

**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:-

*Jan, Penny and Sarah*

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