



Monxton Matters

*Editor
Mike Cleugh
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Monxton Flower Festival Review Special Bumper Picture Issue



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MONXTON FLOWER FESTIVAL 20-21 June 2009

**Take 9 open gardens, 30 flower displays,
90 art competition entries,
45 classic cars, dozens of yellow ducks, mix with fair weather,
Andover Sound radio station and hundreds of visitors
and what do you get?**

**A midsummer Monxton Flower Festival to remember
not only for the money it raised
but also for the community spirit it fostered !**

Rhonda Smith reports

Monxton Flower Festival in 2009, held only every 5 or 10 years, raised the amazing amount of £12,000+ for St Mary's Church, Monxton and the Kingfisher Ward of Andover Hospital.

How was this outstanding result achieved? The Flower Festival Committee, expertly chaired and led by Robert Davies supported by the Rev Chris Pettet, David Baugh, Linda Peters and many hard working volunteers, created a plan to contain the possible risk surrounding the event – not risk in terms of losses but risk in terms of a great deal of effort going to 'waste' due to poor weather.

So events were held to raise funds to underwrite the known costs, the most successful being the Charity Clay Shoot at Lains, organised by Jock Glover raising over £4,000. A direct appeal, Christmas dinner, raffle, car boot sale, sponsorship and quiz raised another £2,800.

Additionally and critically, two 'add-on' activities were invented that led to the creation of the biggest and most diverse Flower Festival ever held in Monxton, and both contributing to widening the interest in the event – no matter what the weather might do!

The first was the Art Competition and Exhibition organised under the expert eye of local artist Renate West, supported by Jennifer Richards, Linda Peters and Carol Pratt. This allowed early promotion of the whole weekend as artists were invited to enter paintings to be sold with a percentage coming back to the Festival committee.

Of the many high quality entries received, more than 90 were selected and expertly hung in the Village Hall. Judges Renate West, Julian Bond, artist in residence at the Portsmouth Dockyard and Richard Davies, Director of Fine Art at University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, selected the acrylic 'Frosty Morning' by Goodworth Clatford artist Clarissa Russell as the winner of the £400 prize in their gift – and visitors liked it too as the same painting won the 'People's Prize'!

With 21 pictures sold at a total sale value of £3,385, the Art Competition contributed a magnificent £1,300 to the final Festival total.

Originally suggested by Eric Thelwell, Monxton Manor became the venue for the first ever Monxton Classic Car Show. Co-organised by Marc Catchpole, one of the first cars to be secured was a 1914 Rolls Royce Alpine Eagle from the National Motor Museum of Bealieu with the help of the Flower Festival Patron, the Bishop of Winchester Rt Rev Michael Scott-Joynt.

MONXTON FLOWER FESTIVAL 20-21 June 2009

Word spread quickly among local classic car enthusiasts with more than 45 cars dating from 1904 (a De Dion Bouton) to 2003 from Rolls Royce to Ferraris, Lamborghinis to Triumphs, Aston Martins to MGs and minis taking part on Sunday. Monxton Manor proved the ideal location attracting many extra visitors to see this fabulous display.

But what about the most important element – the flowers and the Church, the core of our Festival weekend? Expertly master-minded by Jane Weston, aided by 15 committed flower arrangers, fragrance-filled St Mary's Church was ablaze with colour and arrangements based on the theme Hymns Ancient and Modern.

Sunflowers, the icon of the event, were displayed to great effect along the Church path as well as on the Village Green.

But flowers were also in abundance in the nine Monxton gardens open over the whole weekend. Owners and their families generously gave their time to warmly welcome and guide hundreds of visitors.

The Village Green over the two whole days was abuzz with activity, not least with the constant supply of teas and cakes – temporarily disrupted only by night-time interference with some plates skimmed into the brook by some thoughtless passers-by! Coconut shy, flower sales, a raffle, guess the weight of the cake, books, preserves and duck racing kept visitors amused as well as enabling them to rest between their forays to the cars, gardens and art show!

Sunday saw the arrival of our local radio station Andover Sound, broadcasting live from the village and providing a helpful final publicity boost for the cars, gardens, church and art show.

Our Flower Festival weekend was officially opened by the Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Ian Hibberd, and blessed by the Bishop of Basingstoke, Rt. Rev Trevor Willmott. It was closed most appropriately with a service in St Mary's, led by Chris Pettet and the Bishop of Winchester, and at which an engraved glass and vase were presented to Robert Davies and Jane Weston to thank them for their leadership and extraordinary effort.

Sir George Young MP showed off his talents as an auctioneer as the wonderful flower arrangements went to the highest bidders at the final gathering of the weekend where a glass of wine was available for all volunteers.

"It has been wonderful to discover how many talented people there are in our village and the surrounding area," adds Flower Festival Chair Robert Davies. "Around 150 people were directly involved who willingly provided not only the much needed man-power, but also a high level of expertise in matters as diverse as accounting, graphic design, public relations, sign writing, music, the law, copy writing, technical support, publishing, photography, organisational and production skills, leadership, quality location catering and much more - and not forgetting the very beautifully prepared floral decorations and gardens. All involved can be justifiably proud of what has been achieved."

Put June 2014 in your diaries! Monxton must keep up the 5 yearly tradition now!

Rhonda Smith

Publicity Officer & Official Photographer for the Monxton Flower Festival

Monxton & Amport Village Hall Weekly Programme and Forthcoming Events

If you'd like to book the hall for an event please call Karen Simon on 01264 710181

Day	Time	Activity	Contact Name
Monday	9:30am - 10:30am	Yoga Class	Jane 01264 773429
Monday	Afternoon	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Monday	Evening	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Tuesday	9:30am - 1:30pm	** NEW ** 'Wake Up' Toddler Activity class (ages 1 - 3 years)	Katy Hayes 01722 411083
Tuesday	2pm - 3pm	Badminton	
Tuesday	Evening	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Wednesday	8:30am - 1:30pm	Baby Sensory Class	Lin Day 01722 320779
Wednesday	2pm - 4pm	RAGS	
Wednesday	Evening	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Thursday	9:15am - 11:45am	Music with Mummy - baby and toddler music class	Nicky Derrick - 01264 720452
Thursday	Afternoon	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Thursday	6:15pm - 9:15pm	Tap and Modern Dance Classes	Niccy Bull - 01264 323442
Friday	Morning	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Friday	Afternoon	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Friday	Evening	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Saturday	All day	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	

Events

Tuesday 8th September	8.00-9.30 pm	Monxton Parish Council Meeting	Jules 7111826



Black Swan Events Calendar



18th July - Seafood Night
22nd August - French Evening
19th September - Caribbean Evening
24th October - Sausage & Pie Evening
14th November - Indian Evening

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF

The Monxton Parish Council Meeting

TUESDAY 7th JULY 2009 at 8.00PM.

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

MATTERS ARISING (Abridged version)

FOOTPATHS

There was little to report although Mrs Allen mentioned that work has started on reinstating the farm track from Monxton Lane near Little Cottage towards Manor Farmhouse prior to the erection on the grain store and that hopefully disruption to walkers will be minimal.

Mrs Allen also expressed her apologies for apparently causing some confusion following a piece in the June edition of the Parish News. The strip of land that she was referring to is on Manor Farm and runs beside the railway on the Monxton side. It was put to set aside some years ago and has now been ploughed and cultivated. Mrs Allen was not referring to the old gallops on the A303 side of the railway.

There is also a definitive footpath map which is available to look at from Mrs Allen or can be found on line at Monxton.org.uk. There is also a CD rom version available from TVBC.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The clerk read out the following report from Mr Davies.

“Since the Parish Council AGM on 5 May there have been a few Neighbourhood Watch incidents of note. In recent months I have had reports from people in Monxton about some youths who were congregating regularly on the approach to the Gallops. I was told that they looked threatening and were leaving litter behind them. I reported this to the Police, who intercepted and interviewed five youths near the Gallops.

I understand they were questioned about possession of illegal substances and that three of them were arrested.

In early June, Katrina Saville and I received telephone calls about the recent horse thefts “scare” and concern was expressed about the safety of horses kept in Broad Road. I spoke to PC Bill Williams about this and was told, “The recent horse theft scare came from another Officer but there was no evidence behind it. The two missing horses from Wherwell were located in another field”. Bill went on to tell me that, apart from the New Years Eve caravan theft, there had been no problems in Broad Road and thought that the concern about these horses was mistaken.

On the village green, the preparations for Flower Festival were vandalised on the night of Friday 19 /Saturday 20 June. A couple of dozen plates were thrown into the river, some broken, and some of the bunting was pulled down. I informed the Police.

On or about 23 June a locked forklift truck was stolen from a shed at Living Walls in Green Lane. These premises have been subjected to criminal activity before and the Police recommend that the security measures there be increased.

And finally .The Monxton NHW were told by Bill Williams that the information we provided about a suspect security company, who were cold calling in the village, helped to uncover a dangerous scam. A genuine security company was having its good reputation and “bona fides” used fraudulently to obtain up-front payments for non-existent security equipment.”

MATTERS ARISING (continued)

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Chairman read out the following report by Mr Robert Davies:

“It has been fascinating to discover how many talented people there are in our village and the surrounding area. The 2009 Festival was a very large event for a community of our size and as various challenges arose, during the preparation stages, somebody was always found to take on each of these challenges and turn them into successes.

In excess of 100 people were directly involved who willingly provided not only the much needed man-power but also a high level of expertise in matters as diverse as accounting, graphic design, public relations, sign writing, music, the law, copy writing, technical support, publishing, organisational and production skills, leadership, quality location catering and much more – and not forgetting the very beautifully prepared floral decorations and gardens.

At times the demands of the Festival looked very large for the numbers available in our village but in the end it was entirely successful and the people of Monxton can be justifiably proud of what they have achieved.

Financially, the Festival exceeded expectation and I am attaching details of the accounts (a copy of which can be obtained from the Parish clerk). The figures remain provisional because there are still one or two small outstanding costs to be received. After making due provision for these unknown costs, the Festival weekend netted (profit after costs) approximately £6,250 which can be added to the £6,000 plus raised already by the winter Pre-Festival fund raising effort.

The success of the Festival was not only financial. It was clear that those involved had a strong sense of comradeship and I am told that taking part in this shared endeavour was greatly enjoyed.

Since the Festival it has been rewarding to hear several people say that it has drawn people together in a way that has given our already united village a renewed sense of community spirit. If this is to be the social legacy of the Festival all our effort was well worth it”!

Mrs Saville also mentioned that Mr Davies has requested both positive and negative comments regarding the flower festival.

“The Chairman advised that she has the Parish photo album, which contains several pictures from the last Flower Festival. It was agreed that this should be updated with pictures of this year's Festival.”.

RURAL SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW UPDATE

The clerk advised that she had recently attended a presentation hosted by Graham Smith and Tim Crouch of TVBC regarding the above. Following the inspectors report on the Borough Local Plan review and comments made on the Core Strategy one of the areas TVBC has been told to look at again is the review of village boundaries of certain villages of which Monxton is included.

The new policy is called an ‘envelope’ effect, which means an envelope would be drawn around the settlement and development within the boundary would be acceptable in principle, subject to a number of other criteria. It was highlighted by the Inspector that the current policy with respect to infill lines is too restrictive and offers no flexibility. He insisted that TVBC have to move forward with a fresh approach to allow building in rural settlements.

Should TVBC refuse to make such amendments the Inspector can override the councillors and his/her decision will be binding. Members of the PC will be meeting with TVBC to discuss this further, and there will be a public consultation period at some time in the future.

PLANNING MATTERS

Item	REF/DESCRIPTIONS	Parish Council	TVBC	Comments
1	08/02447/FULLN - Millcroft	Objection by MPC	Pending consideration	Appeal to Secretary of state...see below
2	09/00954/FULLN – 2 Manor Farm cottages	No objection by MPC	Pending consideration	
3	09/00565/FULLN – Grain store, Manor Farm	No objection by MPC	Permission by TVBC	

Application 08/02447/FULLN – an appeal has been made following refusal/failure to determine the planning application within the time allowed. No further information available from TVBC.

ANDOVER AIRFIELD SITE

This application number 07/01951/OUTN can be accessed via www.testvalley.gov.uk – go the planning page and public access. There is also a link on the Monxton website to this issue.

The S106 agreement is still to be finalised so it will be at least October before any developments are made. The chairman advised that Mr A Munday of TVBC is happy to be involved in the committee between Megashed, the developers and surround Parish councils which will be set up to monitor ongoing developments once construction begins.

- 1. Councillor Tim Southern offered his advice with listed building applications.**
- 2. All planning applications can be accessed on line at www.testvalley.gov.uk**

SUNNYBANK – AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

All is going to schedule at the moment. The developers may submit a revised planning application regarding the change of window sizes. The clerk advised that she has recently spoken with Keith Sutcliffe of TVBC regarding the waiting list for the houses at Sunnybank. He explained that TVBC will shortly be writing to everyone on the list who has a strong connection to the village.

They must be currently resident, or be a previous resident, still have family living in the village, be currently employed in the village or provide support to a family member. The dwellings will also be advertised through the Test Valley Homes website, www.tvhousing.org.uk for 1 week only. All applicants will then be looked at and points will be awarded. Once this has been addressed TVBC will write to all possible nominations and ask for their permission for their details to be passed onto Monxton PC to verify legitimacy.

Once the successful applicants have been decided the Parish council will be advised. The Parish council will not have a say in this decision. The clerk advised that she had recently received an email from Mark Goodman, a Systems Support Officer for Planning and Building Services at TVBC regarding the S106 agreement for the development at Sunnybank.

He confirmed that the developers at Sunnybank are yet to pay the contributions due to TVBC but that they will be paid prior to occupation of any new dwelling. Once received the contribution will be transferred to HCC who are responsible for the maintenance and improvement to local highways.

Monxton PC can then apply for funding towards any future projects they may wish to undertake. The shortage of car parking spaces was also mentioned at Sunnybank. One suggestion may be to convert the grass over area on the right hand side as you enter Sunnybank into 3 or 4 extra spaces. This is one area where the S106 contribution could be used.

Monxton Flower Festival – Photos by Rhonda Smith



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