

# i nfact



February  
2011  
Issue 20  
Parish Council  
Communication  
Please keep

## Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council

Member of Bucks Association of Local Councils and M.K. Association of Urban Local Councils

Serving the grid squares of Kents Hill, Kents Hill Park, Monkston, Monkston Park, Brinklow and Kingston.

# GET TEXTING

# RU ↑ 4IT

The Parish Council are to make full use of modern mobile telephone technology to get feedback from local residents. So many people in our community have mobile phones and use texting as an efficient means of communication.

It's used by all ages and is completely independent of employment or education. It's instant, convenient and cheap.

In this copy of iNFACT you will find two opportunities for you to give us vital information about the society in which we live.

PLEASE JOIN IN.....



## A newsletter to keep residents informed

Please log on to our web site regularly. List us in your favourites listing.

**[www.kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk](http://www.kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk)**

All contact with the Parish Council to the Parish Clerk's  
e-mail: **[clerk@kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk)** or text/telephone: **07946 512523**  
or in writing to **P.O. Box 7508, MK11 9DL**

**GET INVOLVED ! JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL OR THE NAG**

# More Parish Playdays during the school Easter and Summer holidays are planned for this year



**Have your say! tell us what you think  
Are the playdays which are run for us by The Play Association just what you need?**

You can either e-mail us at: [clerk@kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk) or text us at 07946 512523

If you or your family are likely to make use of the playday sessions in Kents Hill, Monkston and Monkston Park, please tell us about your experiences and needs by e-mailing or **texting**.

## **Q1. Which location suits you best?**

- A. Kents Hill
- B. Monkston
- C. Monkston Park
- D. Any, don't mind

## **Q2. Do you attend with your children and take advantage of meeting neighbours and family?**

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Sometimes

## **Q3. How involved were you with the activities which were provided?**

- A. Involved in art work only.
- B. Involved in games and sports only.
- C. Involved in lots of things.
- D. Sat around and chatted with friends and looked out for the safety of the children.
- E. Did some activities with the children but also socialised with adults.
- F. Delivered the children and left them.
- G. Sent them on their own or with their friends.

## **Q4. Which activity works best for you?**

- A. Bouncy castles.
- B. Team games, football, cricket etc.
- C. Art work.
- D. Food and cooking.
- E. Dancing, music.

## **Q5. Would you like us to continue with these sessions?**

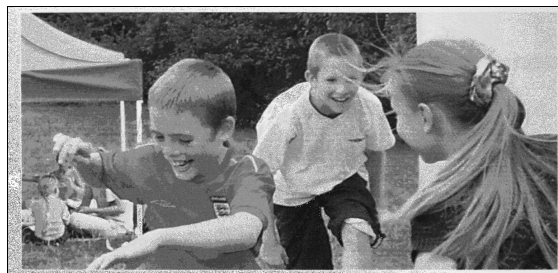
- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Try other providers

## **Q6. What do you think about the standard and quality of the sessions provided?**

- A. Poor
- B. Adequate
- C. Good
- D. Excellent

## **Q7. Did you get enough information about the dates, times and venues of the sessions?**

- A. Yes
- B. No



Each year the Parish Council spends a considerable amount to provide these Easter and Summer playdays.

We hope that residents and their children will attend in big numbers and take full advantage of the facilities which are provided free of charge.

These are really sociable occasions and provide opportunities for people to meet up with their neighbours and friends.

Whilst we are asking for adult feedback, perhaps you could consider allowing your children to give us their answers. (we know many of them have mobile phones and are expert texters!)

Please tell us your **POST CODE**, so that we know which estate you live in.

**IF YOU DECIDE TO TEXT US WITH YOUR REPLIES, THIS IS WHAT IT SHOULD LOOK LIKE.**

**EXAMPLE**

**Q1 B Q2 A Q3 G Q4 D Q5 A Q6 C Q7 A  
MK10 8EQ**

**It's as easy as that!**

**Thanks for taking the time.**

# 35,000 DAFFODILS AND OTHER BULBS WERE PLANTED IN THE PARISH THIS WINTER

## Look out for the flowers appearing soon



To cheer up the estates a large number of spring flowering bulbs have been planted. Last winter a number were planted by hand in the parkland at the top of Kents Hill, and this winter an even greater number were planted by machine along the linear parkland next to Lindisfarne Drive in Monkston and in several locations in Kents Hill. We are grateful to some of our Ward Councillors who contributed to the cost and to MKC for providing bulbs and the machinery to do the job.

We hope to be able to plant bulbs in Monkston Park once the area is fully adopted. The Parish Council are now looking for opportunities to seed some areas with wild flowers.

### Alzheimer's Society Support Group

Alzheimer's disease affects so many families nowadays and a new support group now meets at Kents Hill Community Centre, Frithwood Crescent. Meetings are at 2.00 p.m. until 3.30 p.m.

Information, support and advice is provided for everyone affected by dementia.



Go along for a cuppa and a chat.

These are the forthcoming dates:  
February: 3rd and 17<sup>th</sup>  
March: 3rd, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

### **This is an e-mail from a resident.....**

I'm writing regarding the Monkston Playing Fields and surrounding areas. Just recently when walking my dog and children around the local area I have noticed an intolerable level of dog mess on the grass verges, green and paths. I'm not sure if the cold, wet and even snowy weather is to blame but it really is no excuse for people to not bother to pick it up.

It's not only unsightly but also a real health risk to users, particularly children, should they happen to step in it. On a number of occasions I have unfortunately picked some up on bike / pushchair wheels and it is not nice.

I am a dog owner myself and ensure that I always have sufficient bags on me to enable me to pick up my own dogs mess, I have also, on many occasions, picked up that of other dogs too.

I know it really isn't the responsibility of the Parish Council but I did wonder if perhaps there was something you could do as a parish council to raise awareness locally.



**These words speak for themselves.**

**If your family has a dog, it is all family members who have responsibility to clear up any mess which the dog leaves.**

**If you send out your children with the dog, please make sure they**

**have the necessary equipment to deal with anything your dog leaves behind.**



### **The Great British FISH & CHIPS Supper** **Friday 20th May**

**The Spinal Injuries Association** is again organising one of their popular FISH & CHIPS SUPPER days.

This is about getting together with friends, having fun and raising funds for the spinal injuries association.

To get your fundraising pack ☎ : 0845 071 4350

E-mail: [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk)

Or visit: [www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips](http://www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips)

**LOOK OUT FOR A BRIGHT AND YELLOW SPRING TIME**

## MONKSTON ALLOTMENTS CURRENTLY IN SNAGGING PHASE

### MILTON KEYNES READER SERVICE

Do you have difficulty in finding speakers for your meetings? If so, they may be able to help.

They are a free and independent charitable organisation that offers a range of services to visually impaired and disabled people living in Milton Keynes.

They would very much like to come and talk to your group about our work. They think their services are unique and they would like to make you aware of what they do. They have already given presentations to rotary clubs, WIs and charities in Milton Keynes and these have been received with interest and enthusiasm

If you would like to know more about the READER SERVICE, please contact:

**Liz Roe**, Talks Co-ordinator,  
E-mail: [lizroe@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizroe@tiscali.co.uk)  
or Tel: **01908 604901**.

Charity No. 1013965

This is not a fundraising exercise but an opportunity for the Milton Keynes Reader Service to raise its profile within our community.



### MONKSTON PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

This new attribute to the community is expected to be legally transferred to MK Council in February.

Considerable interest is being shown from prospective users.

Hertsmere Leisure will be managing the centre for the council and local residents will form a steering committee.

### RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

#### Here is some useful information from MK Council just in case....

We would like to thank you for your patience and support during the difficult weather at Christmas, and assure you that the quality of the services we provide remains our most important priority.

Please contact us should you have any further questions or comments about the service.

**Environmental Services Contact Centre:  
01908 252570**

**Email:  
[envservices@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:envservices@milton-keynes.gov.uk)**



#### Staying up to date....

**Email and Text Alerts:** Sign up for email and text alerts that will tell you if there are any changes to your collections based on your postcode.

The service is **free** for residents and you can register by going to our website or calling the Environmental Services Contact Centre for more information.

**Website:** The council website is constantly updated with changes or disruptions to collections or services.

**Local media:** Any changes or disruption to services are widely publicised via newspaper and radio stations as frequently as possible

**[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recyclingsignup](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recyclingsignup)**

**NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENING SOON**

# NEW YOUTH CLUB IS OFFERING A WIDE VARIETY OF ATTRACTIONS

## FESTIVAL OF RUNNING

This is a date for your diary...

**Festival of running** 5km/10km races and a half marathon will take place in the town on  
**SUNDAY 13th MARCH**

**Events start at 10.00 a.m.**  
**From XSCAPE**

Look out for details in the local press  
or visit [www.mkhalf.co.uk](http://www.mkhalf.co.uk)

## PARISH PROTOCOL

After a long consultation period MK Council and the 47 Parish Councils have a new joint working protocol.

Kents Hill and Monkston Parish Council have signed up to this new working agreement which ensures MK departmental officers and Ward Councillors consult and agree any action which affect our communities.

## PARISH PRECEPT

The total budget for the Parish for 2011/2012 has been agreed at £87,998.20. We will support the requirement by using £18,203.20 of our reserves. Whilst our budget has stood still for the last two years we consider it to be very good value for money and a minor increase of only £2.50 per household for the year (less than 2 cups of coffee at Costa!)

Full details will be included in the letter you receive from MK Council concerning council tax.

**NEW YOUTH GROUP  
AT MONKSTON**

**LOTS  
OF NEW  
STUFF  
TO DO,  
COME  
WITH  
YOUR  
MATES**

**TUESDAYS, 8 till 9.30 pm.**



**MONKSTON  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

## PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

***Do you want to support your community?  
Do you want to make a difference?  
Could you spare a few hours per month?***

If so, we would like to hear from you.

**The Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council** currently have the following vacancies.

- 2 Parish Councillors for Kents Hill
- 1 Parish Councillor for Monkston Park

Please contact the Parish Clerk  
On 07946 512523

Or e-mail: [clerk@kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk)

We hope to hear from you soon!



## SALT BINS

You may have noticed that MK Council have placed some road salt bins at various places on our estates.

This salt is provided for the public to use on their streets if they are having difficult traction with their cars or if corners and gradients or footpaths are considered dangerous. Please use it sparingly and refrain from using it on your house driveways. Perhaps we won't get any more nasty white stuff!

**YOUTH CLUB - MORE THAN JUST A HANG-OUT**

# PARISH FETE THIS YEAR AT KENTS HILL



**SATURDAY  
JUNE 25TH  
1.30 - 5.00 P.M.**



Last year's summer fete, the first one ever for the parish, was an incredible success.

## **WE ARE NOW PLANNING THIS YEAR'S EVENT AND NEED SOME HELP FROM YOU**

It will be held on the playing field at Kents Hill and our intention is to make it a bigger and better event.

There will be a hog roast, food vans, children's amusements, bouncy castles, various stalls selling everything from cards to cakes and much, much more.

If you are interested in helping (even the smallest of help will be appreciated)  
then please contact Gwen Corbett or Colin Bowker by e-mailing

**[mkmpevents@googlemail.com](mailto:mkmpevents@googlemail.com)**

## **NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group)**

You will find a loose page in this edition of iFACT which is the annual community survey document. Please take a few moments to give some thought to the contents of this questionnaire.

The results of this survey will drive the priorities of the NAG's work. This year you can respond by texting us the answers to the questions. You can do this in the comfort of your armchair at a very small cost.

Of course you will still be able to respond by e-mail, snail mail, or via the special post boxes by the Parish Council notice boards and at the Kingston Police Station.

We are trying to make it really easy for you to give us your opinions which we greatly value.

Just in case you have arrived here recently here is what NAG is all about:

**NAG** is a Thames Valley Police initiative which brings together members of the community, MK Council, the Parish Council and other interested parties. Their agenda is directed by community - perceived issues and targets the most prominent from that list.

**NAG** provides an opportunity for members of the community to come together with agency professionals to make a real difference. Interested in joining? Text the Parish Clerk.