

New Year New Partnership

The Monkton Communities First Partnership will be going into the New Year with a new Chair at the helm. Mr Williams Rees formally headmaster of Monkton Priory School was elected as the Chair for the Monkton Community First Partnership with Claire Arnold from the Springboard project supporting him in the role of Vice Chair and Lee Levesley from Want to Work and a Monkton resident is continuing the role of Secretary.

The AGM was held in the Church Hall on Monday 29th November and was well attended by residents despite the cold weather. Shelly Morris the outgoing Vice Chair thanked the Partnership for supporting her during her time as acting Chair. James Roach-John the Community First Co-ordinator thanked his team for all the hard work they have put in and thanked the Partnership for all of their support.



New Parent and Toddler Playgroup in Monkton

A new playgroup started in Monkton on Thursday 18th November. The playgroup run by Mount Pleasant Church in Pembroke runs every Thursday afternoon between 1pm – 3pm at The Old Priory Inn, Monkton. All are welcome to drop in and socialise with other parents from the area.

Lantern Workshops and Parade Great Success!

Monkton Events Committee (MEC) with the support of Monkton Communities First organised a Lantern Parade in the Community on 4th November.

There were 3 workshops held in the run up to the parade. Over 80 people attended a community workshop held in The Old Priory Inn, with over 40 lanterns made on the day. Monkton Youth Club also hosted a workshop, with 10 lanterns being made and Monkton Priory School Year 6 students also took part in a workshop, where 22 lanterns were made.

The parade of around 150 members from the community set off from The Old Priory Inn and worked its way down Long Mains, then up St Martin's Road and finished at The Community Centre where Monkton Voice held a firework display. Photos from the night are available on the Monkton Communities First Facebook page facebook.com/communitiesfirst

MEC would like to give a massive Thank You to Pip and Guy from Space to Create for doing the workshops, The Old Priory Inn, Monkton Priory School and Monkton Youth Club for hosting Workshops. Sue Williams for leading the parade, Sergeant Lesley Buckle and all the PCSO's who helped on the night. Sarah from Llanion Communities First and all the Stewards from the local community for all their help on the night and finally everyone who came out on the parade and made the event the success it was.



If you would like a Welsh copy of this Newsletter please call us on 01646 680373

Pembroke and Monkton Local History Society celebrates its first anniversary!

A year has passed since we held our inaugural meeting and we were amazed and delighted that so many of you joined us on our first anniversary. Reg Williams gave his slide show of old Pembroke and Monkton photographs and we could not have invited a better speaker than Reg whose witty delivery had us all in stitches!



Looking back over the year we have been very busy in the community. We have now established ourselves in the Priory Church Hall where we have converted the back room into an office and resource centre made possible with funding from the WCVA's Communities First Trust Fund. We also won funding from PAVS for the purchase of exhibition boards.



In March we launched the Monkton History Project. Many people responded to our appeal for information, photos and memories of old Monkton and we combined the event with a coffee morning and exhibition in the Priory Church Hall. We have now established a monthly coffee morning at the Priory Church Hall on the first Saturday of the month, accompanied by an exhibition of old photographs and featuring something different each time.

We will be pleased to welcome you at our next coffee morning on Saturday December 4th (10.30 – 1pm) when our special feature, with Christmas in mind, will be an exhibition of old children's toys kindly lent by Mr and Mrs St John Stimpson, of the former Museum of the Home. At the same time we will be holding an exhibition in Paddles as part of the Winter Festival (from 11.30 to 4pm).

And if you have any information or photographs which we can scan to add to our history files please bring them along!

For information about our Society contact Linda Asman on 01646 622428 and Liz Jenkins on 01646 684277.

And visit our Blog <http://pembrokeandmonktonhistory.blogspot.com> which records all our activities.



Monkton Priory School, Flying Start, Playgroup

Monkton Priory School's Flying Start Playgroup has spaces available at their happy and safe playgroup where children learn through play.

Children aged between 2-3 years are welcome. Please call into the Playgroup anytime for a chat, a look around our building and to register your child/children.

Our opening times are Mornings: 9.00am – 11.30am and Afternoons: 1.00pm – 3.30pm

For more information telephone Monkton Priory School on 01646 685685.

Christmas Events at The Old Priory Inn in Monkton.

The Old Priory Inn Monkton is holding a number of events in the run up to Christmas which are open to everyone.

There will be a Children's Party on Saturday 18th December 11am – 3pm, all are welcome to attend this free event.

A full Christmas Dinner is available on Tuesday 21st December; the cost is £4 and booking in advance would be appreciated. Christmas Bingo is being held on Tuesday 21st December 7.30 – 9.00pm.

If you would like more information or would like to book Christmas dinner please pop into The Old Priory Inn, Monkton and talk to Maggie or Shelly.



PATCH has been running an outreach in The Old Priory, Monkton since the summer with great success. Tracy Olin the PATCH Co-ordinator says "I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the people in Pembrokeshire." This year's Harvest Festival donations have been amazing with more schools and churches than ever before donating to us. Our cupboards at PATCH are overflowing with most items. Unfortunately this food won't last very long as the need for our services is ever increasing.

I have never met with such incredible community spirit as there is in this county; even in difficult times there are always people willing to give their time, money and/or much needed items.

We are now preparing for the Christmas celebrations and again the donations are coming in already with individuals, groups and companies pledging their support. One week I left PATCH in Monkton with a car full of toys, and as many waiting for me to collect next week.

All statutory bodies that help people in Pembrokeshire are welcome to be referral agencies for PATCH insuring that all people in need in our community can receive our help when needed.

Thank you to everybody who has donated or will be donating to PATCH.

For more information about the work that PATCH does please contact Tracy on 01646 69 68 69.

Aladdin Comes to Monkton!

T.P.P Theatrical Productions from Llanelli will be bringing their production of the well known pantomime Aladdin to Monkton this Christmas. The performance will take place on Sunday, 12th December at 7.30pm in the Church Hall, Monkton. Monkton Priory Church Committee have booked the pantomime, which goes from strength to strength every year and is a highlight of the Christmas calendar. Tickets are very reasonably priced at £4 for Adults and £2 for Children. For more information or to buy tickets please contact Dot on 01646 685060.

Communities First Trust Fund

– A message from the Team

We still have a considerable sum of money in our Trust Fund, with only a few claims not yet allocated. The Trust Fund closes on Monday 31st January 2011 and applications must be received in full with supporting information by Monday 31st January 2011. Faxed or email applications are not accepted.

There is no minimum amount to apply for but the maximum grant award is £5,000 (limits have been placed on certain activities, for example trips and events. No group will be eligible to access more than £5,000 from the Trust Fund in any financial year.

The purpose of the scheme is to support any type of activity that involves local people, through small community organisations, that benefit their community. The activities must provide some measure of economic, environmental, social or cultural benefit for people living in a Communities First area.

If you would like an application form please get in touch with the Team and we will forward/post one out to you. As always we are here to help any group or organisation through the application process.

There is at present no news on whether the Trust Fund will be available or not in the next financial year 2011-2012, therefore we would urge you all to consider applying to the Fund while it is available.

Springboard Success

Springboard: who are the courses for?

Adults living, working or learning in the Monkton area.



From student to star

Tina Crockford has been a student with Springboard for the past two years but on the 14th December she will become a voluntary tutor, working with new students on Christmas crafts.

Claire Arnold, Springboard Advisor for the community of Monkton, is full of praise at what Sharon and Tina have achieved. 'Springboard really can change people's lives for the better. Sharon and Tina are a real inspiration.'



Building confidence, achieving goals

My name is Sharon Barnikel and I live in Monkton. I attend literacy classes on Tuesdays and numeracy on Thursdays at Monkton School. I am re-learning all the things I have forgotten from school.

I am now reading books for the first time in my life and have gone from never picking up a book to not being able to put one down. In 2008 I received an award for reader of the year.

I have reached Level 1 in both subjects and I'm determined to keep going until I achieve my goal of Level 2. Once my youngest is in full time education I hope to use my qualifications to get a good job and make a good life for me and my children.

As well as literacy and numeracy I've been on a variety of courses, including An Introduction to Child Care, for which I have gained four Open College Network credits.



Site Safety

Just one week after completing the Springboard Site Safety course, three men and a woman from Monkton have found jobs in the construction industry in Pembrokeshire.



Examples of Springboard courses currently on offer:

Numeracy & literacy: for people who need to start from scratch and for those who simply want to brush up their skills.

Welsh for Beginners: great for learning another language.

Hair & Beauty: time out to pamper yourself.

Site Safety: equip yourself with the skills to work in industry

Craft tasters: see what creative talents you have.

Family learning: quality time with your child.

Learning Pembrokeshire Courses are also available.

For more information visit

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/learningpembrokeshire

For more information about Springboard courses please contact Claire Arnold: 01646 680817 07876 651331 or call into Monkton School for a chat.

Christmas Parties for Young People

Monkton's Mini-Market ladies have three parties organised for children and young people over the festive season, all taking place in the Community Centre on the Village Green.

On Saturday 18th December there a Christmas Party for 8 – 11 years at 6pm. Free entry and refreshments for all.

On Tuesday 21st December between 2 and 5pm there's a Christmas Party for 3 – 7 year olds, free entry and refreshments.

And finally, on Thursday 23rd December between 2 and 5 pm there's a Party for 3-7 year olds with the Magic Man, again free entry and refreshments.

Communities First Conference

In October the Communities First Team and a member from the Partnership travelled to Llandudno for the Annual Communities First Conference. The two day conference had the theme of "Influencing Service Delivery at Local Level – Programme Bending"

All that attended the conference were inspired and provided with some of the tools needed to develop programme bending in their own area.

All the workshop notes are available from the Communities First Office.

VP Crafts Christmas Coffee Morning

VP Crafts will be holding a Coffee Morning at Pembroke Town Hall on Tuesday 14th December between 10 am and 1pm. All are welcome to attend, Christmas Craft items will be on display and available to purchase. All money raised will be donated to local good causes.





Get Online with BBC First Click Campaign

You may have seen articles about getting online on the news or heard storylines on Eastenders and The Archers recently. That's because the BBC has launched its First Click campaign aimed at getting people to take their 'first clicks' online.

PAVS Communities 2.0 team are working closely with the libraries throughout Pembrokeshire to deliver a series of sessions for older people to get online. The over 60's represent the largest group of people who are not online and we will be helping many of them in Pembrokeshire to become internet savvy.

If you would like to take your 'First Click' on the internet then look out for more information at your local library or call 01437 775241 to find out when the next sessions are.

Or you if there's a group of up to 6 people, talk to your Communities First team and they can get the PAVS Communities 2.0 team to come and help you locally.



The **co-operative membership**



Sports Afternoon

The Children's and Young Persons Action Group with support from Monkton Communities First organised a Sports Afternoon in October Half Term. The event was held in The Ball Park in Ramsden Court and games played included Netball, Football and Basketball. This was another event in a series of activity afternoons organised in partnership with members from the Children and Young People's Action Group for Monkton.



Are you struggling to pay your bills and make loan repayments?

Get FREE & Confidential

Debt Advice at The Old Priory Café, Monkton.

Drop in 10am - 1pm (no appointment necessary)

Thursday 6th	January
Thursday 20th	January
Thursday 27th	January
Thursday 3rd	February
Thursday 17th	February

Pembrokeshire Citizens Advice Bureau

38 Meyrick Street,
Pembroke Dock SA72 6UT

Also at 43 Cartlett,
Haverfordwest SA61 2LH

Advice line 0844 4772020

Pembroke Dock lights up the night

On Friday 10th December Pembroke Dock Festival Group will be holding their annual Winter Lantern Parade. The excitement will begin outside Pembroke Dock Youth Centre on Bush Street at 5pm with Professor Panic's fireshow. Led by the exhilarating Samba Doc, the Parade will leave from the Youth Centre accompanied by Father Christmas at 6pm. The parade will proceed through the town and end at Western Way for a fireworks display organised by Pembroke Dock Town Council. The whole event is free and everyone is welcome.

There will also be a free family workshop Saturday 4th December from 10am until 4pm where you can make a lantern for the big event. All welcome and refreshments will be available. This will take place at the Pembroke Dock Youth Centre, Bush Street, and we would love to see you there.

If you would like to help steward the event or you would like more information, please contact Sarah or Anna at Llanion Communities First on 0845 345 5031.

Don't forget if you made a lantern for our parade in Monkton you are more than welcome to join in using that one and you'll be recycling as well, which is brilliant!



BT Community Web Kit

In just a few simple steps you can have an easy-to-build web site to help promote your charity or community group.

It's a straightforward to set-up and maintain. And once it's up-and-running, it provides an easy way to publicise your group and stay in touch with people.

Best of all, it's free.

The new service is packed full of amazing features that will give your website the professional look and feel to really make an impact.

Whether you're a tech novice or a computer whizz, the BT Community Web Kit can really put you on the map.

For more information go to www.btck.co.uk



New Work Club for Monkton residents looking for work

The Jobs, Business and Income Generation Action Group are looking to set up a Work Club within Monkton, with the support of Want2Work, Workways, Careers Wales and Monkton Communities First. The Work Club will be completely voluntary, and will give all unemployed people in Monkton the opportunity to get together, share skills and experience, make contacts and get support to return to work.

Assistance could include: helping you develop your CV, access to IT for online job applications and jobsearch, possible training, voluntary opportunities and much more.

If you would like more information please contact a member of the Monkton Communities First Team.

Advisers from Want 2 Work are available every Monday from 9.30am - 3.30pm at Monkton Community Hall (side entrance from car park). We can offer a wide range of help to any residents who are unemployed, claiming any benefit other than Jobseekers Allowance, or not claiming any benefits at all. In addition, our colleagues at Workways can offer assistance to customers who have been claiming Jobseekers Allowance for over 12 months. You can either drop in or telephone Lee on 07825 378106 or Alison on 07966 566350 to make an appointment.

Start planning now for a new start in the New Year.

Pembroke 21C, Planning for our Future



Over the last ten years local people have really made a difference in our community. From delivering a hugely successful Festival to setting up a Farmers Market, developing and improving the environment around the Millponds and presenting the history of Pembroke to the nation and beyond. All of these projects have been created in answer to issues raised by local people in a consultation undertaken just over ten years ago.

It is now time to review what has been done so far and look to develop new projects for the next ten years to take us up to 2020. Pembroke 21C Community Association will be issuing questionnaires in its Winter edition of the Network newsletter, asking every household in the community what it thinks is good about where we live and where it thinks improvements can be made. The results from this exercise will then go forward to be considered for new projects in the new community plan to be published next June.

In addition to this survey, a series of community events will be held in the New Year to further develop the results arising from the consultation and pick up on any issues not yet covered.

It is really important that the projects delivered by the community are in response to the issues raised by community, so look out for the questionnaire and make your views count! For more information contact Belinda at Pembroke 21C on 01646 680090



Message from the Team

The Monkton Communities First Team would like to wish all the residents of Monkton Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. James the Project Co-ordinator said "We have had a very busy year and we hope we will see everyone safe and well in the New Year."

The Communities First office will close on Friday 17th December and Re-open on Tuesday 4th January.