

# WELCOME TO MINSTER-ON-SEA

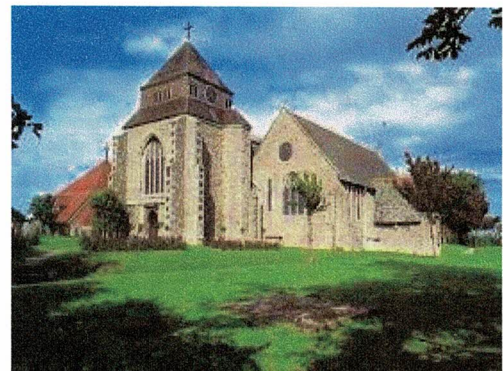


*A short guide to tell you about the things you need to know to help you settle in when you move to Minster-on-Sea.*



Minster-on-Sea Beach

(Source: VisitKent.co.uk)



Minster Abbey

(Source: achurchnearyou.com)



The Leas

(Source: VisitKent.co.uk)



The Glen Village Green

(Source: Trish Hamilton 2014)

*This booklet has been produced for you by **Minster-on-Sea Parish Council** based at **Love Lane, Minster-on-Sea, Sheerness, Kent ME12 2LP.***

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**WELCOME PACKS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE**

## WELCOME TO MINSTER-ON SEA



People living in the rural village of Minster-on-Sea make it the wonderful location it is today. We appreciate the contributions the community makes to Minster-on-Sea's culture and hope that you enjoy living and working here.

This booklet provides a summary of the information you may need to know about Minster-on-Sea.

*Councillor Elliott Jayes*

Chair  
Minster-on-Sea Parish Council

### MINSTER-ON-SEA'S HERITAGE

The Parish takes its name from the Saxon word "Minstre" for the nunnery founded about the year 664, on the site of earlier settlements. References to the Parish date from 1070.

Minster-on-Sea, historically the largest parish on the Isle of Sheppey, now extends to almost half of the Island, lying in the centre with both North and South Coasts. In recent years, the village of Minster-on-Sea has seen significant residential development, making it now the largest populated settlement on the Island.

The Island's coast became a popular destination for visitors from London following the building of the railway and first bridge in 1860 and following the 1914-18 War, caravans and chalets became an important feature in the landscape. There is evidence of people living in Minster as far back as the Iron Age at least. Built on the "back end" of the cliffs, Minster overlooks the safe landing areas around Sheerness and Queenborough. Wards Hill, Warden, Warden Point indicate the significance of the island as a lookout point from Roman to recent times.

The Thames Estuary is an important sea route for London which would have been vulnerable had the island been occupied by hostile forces. Minster provided an ideal vantage overlooking the seaways that access the Thames and Medway rivers. Indeed, the Swale itself, being the strip of water that divides the Isle of Sheppey from the North Kent coast, was also an ideal location for defence. From the early 1800s the Island was the first line of defence for London and contained many forts, a dockyard and an RAF airfield.

The first civil parish council meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1894 at Minster School, the administration continued until 1965 when the Parish Council was incorporated into the Queenborough in Sheppey Borough Council. In 1991 there was a petition to reinstate Minster-on-Sea Parish Council, which was reformed in 2001 with eleven members.

Today Minster's democratically elected members work hard to represents the interests of the community.

<b>YOUR LOCAL MINSTER-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL TEAM</b>			
<b>Councillors</b>			
CLLR ELLIOTT JAYES (CHAIR)	not disclosed	07708 956059	<a href="mailto:cllrejaves@minsteronseapc.co.uk">cllrejaves@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>
CLLR DOLLEY WOOSTER (VICE-CHAIR)	not disclosed	07903 281667	<a href="mailto:cllrdwhite@minsteronseapc.co.uk">cllrdwhite@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>
CLLR MARTIN HAWKINS	872593	not disclosed	<a href="mailto:cllrmhawkins@minsteronseapc.co.uk">cllrmhawkins@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>
CLLR PETER MACDONALD	873116	07523 860074	<a href="mailto:cllrpmacdonald@minsteronseapc.co.uk">cllrpmacdonald@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>
CLLR THOMAS NUNDY	not disclosed	07557 520756	<a href="mailto:cllrtnundy@minsteronseapc.co.uk">cllrtnundy@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>
CLLR BENJAMIN POINTING	not disclosed	07793 768815	<a href="mailto:cllrbpointing@minsteronseapc.co.uk">cllrbpointing@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>
CLLR JILL STIMSON	871839	not disclosed	<a href="mailto:cllrjstimson@minsteronseapc.co.uk">cllrjstimson@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>
<b>Staff</b>			
<b>Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer</b>			
Trish Hamilton		Tel: 01795 873831/ 07748 967782 email: <a href="mailto:clerk@minsteronseapc.co.uk">clerk@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>	
<b>Administration Assistant</b>			
Donna Swarbrick		Tel: 01795 873831 email: <a href="mailto:admin@minsteronseapc.co.uk">admin@minsteronseapc.co.uk</a>	
<b>YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY</b>			

Minster-on-Sea Parish Council is the community's most accessible tier of local government. It represents the interests of approximately 17,000 local residents.

Our aim is to keep residents up to date with the work being done and the decisions being taken on their behalf. In Minster, we have eleven Members who work voluntarily to ensure that Minster-on-Sea remains a pleasant place to live and work in.

We aim to do this by: -

- listening to the needs of the community
- monitoring local services
- planning for the future

- making residents views known to the borough and county councils
- protecting our environment, heritage and boundaries
- monitoring proposed development
- supporting activities that bolster the local economy and boost community spirit
- promoting the parish and its community, locally, nationally and internationally



The photo shows good community governance in action. Here, Minster-on-Sea Parish Council presented a cheque to the Friends of Lovell Road, a group of local residents who because they were disappointed with the state of their local play area, formed a voluntary group and worked really hard to improve it so that people like you and your family could benefit.

### YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The **Planning & Transportation Committee** meets on the **1st Thursday** of each month unless otherwise specified. The **Ordinary Parish Council** meeting is held on the **3rd Thursday** of each month unless otherwise specified. Council Meetings start at 7.00 pm and are held in the Parish Office, Love Lane, Minster, ME12 2LP. They are open to the public.

### YOUR BOROUGH COUNCIL

The local Borough Council for Sheppey, Sittingbourne and Faversham is Swale Borough Council based at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT.

A list of all Borough Councillors is available on the council's website.

- Telephone 01795 417850
- Website: [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk)
- Customer Services e-mail address is: [csc@swale.gov.uk](mailto:csc@swale.gov.uk)

### RUBBISH, WASTE AND RECYCLING

Details of rubbish bin collection days in your area plus details of local refuse tips and recycling bins are available from Swale Borough Council.

Telephone 01795 417850 or go online at [swale.gov.uk](http://swale.gov.uk)

## DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND HOW TO VOTE

You are entitled to vote in UK Parliamentary Elections provided you are over 18 years old and you are on the electoral register. To register, contact Electoral Registration Services at Swale Borough Council telephone: 01795 417850

## YOUR LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Gordon Henderson is the Member of Parliament for the Swale area. His Constituency office is 1st floor, Unit 10 Periwinkle Court Business Centre, Church Street, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 2JZ. Telephone: 01795 423199

## IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY

**In any emergency telephone this free number: 999** (It is an emergency if a crime is being committed, or there is a risk of injury or of serious damage to property). Non-urgent reports to the Police can be made using phone number 101.

**Accident or Serious Illness:** If you or someone with you has an accident or becomes seriously ill call 999 and ask for the Ambulance Service, or go to the Accident and Emergency Department of Medway Maritime Hospital. ***This service is only for emergencies. Do not call 999 or go to the Accident and Emergency Department for minor medical problems.***

## HOSPITALS

- Medway Maritime Hospital, Windmill Road, Gillingham, Kent. Main Switchboard: 01634 830000
- There is a **MINOR INJURIES Unit** at Sheppey Community Hospital. Plover Road, Minster. Opening hours are 8 am until 8 pm daily. Telephone 01795 879100

## IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

If there is a fire, get out, stay out, call 999 and ask for the Fire Service. You will be connected to a Fire Service Control operator and will hear your telephone number being repeated. The operator will then ask you several questions, including the address of where the fire is. Keep very calm and listen to the operator's questions carefully. The operators are highly trained and will guide you through the questions.

Some Fire Services fit free smoke alarms. For advice about this service and expert advice on fire safety telephone Kent Fire Brigade on 0800 923 7000 or visit their website at [kent.fire-uk.org](http://kent.fire-uk.org)



- Kingsferry Neats Court, Queenborough Telephone 01795 662000

## HOUSING

This is a brief guide to rights and responsibilities for tenants. If you require further advice or assistance, please contact Swale Borough Council for advice and support on finding accommodation. Private landlords and housing associations provide rented accommodation.

## COUNCIL AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION HOUSING

There are usually long waiting lists for council and housing association accommodation. For further information, contact:

- Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT.  
Telephone: 01795 417850  
[www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk)
- Southern Housing, Building 800, Guillat Avenue, Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, ME9 8GU  
Telephone: 0800 121 60 60  
[www.southernhousing.org.uk](http://www.southernhousing.org.uk)

## PRIVATE LANDLORDS

Many private landlords use an agent to manage their homes and they are a good place to start searching for property. A private landlord will normally ask for a deposit, often equivalent to at least one month's rent. They should hold your deposit in an approved scheme and you can find more information on this by contacting the Housing Department at Swale Borough Council on 01795 417850.

You should make sure that the condition of the property and any items of furniture are recorded in an inventory and that the tenancy agreement states (i) how much the deposit is and who holds it, (ii) when money can be deducted from the deposit (for unpaid rent or damage to property) and (iii) when you will get the deposit back. If you are on a low income and need to apply for housing benefit, you and the potential landlord must fill in a form which you can get from the Swale Borough Council Housing Benefits Department.

## CHILDREN

In the UK, the legal age for being an adult is 18, so parents are legally responsible for their children until they turn eighteen.

## GETTING A SCHOOL PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD

Education in the UK is compulsory and for all children aged between 5-16. All community schools provide free education. Most children go to nursery at the age of 3 and then Reception Class at 4 years old. This enables the child to be ready for statutory schooling. For information about admissions to Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary schools please

contact: Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone. ME14 1XQ Telephone: 03000 41 41 41.

### PLAYGROUPS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

- Abbey Playgroup, Vicarage Road, Minster. Telephone: 07851429453
- Woodlands Nursery, Minster Road, Minster. Telephone: 01795 875849  
Email: [sarah@woodlands.co.uk](mailto:sarah@woodlands.co.uk)
- St Peter's Playgroup, Halfway, Telephone: 07710418564  
[www.stpeters-playgroup.co.uk](http://www.stpeters-playgroup.co.uk)
- Little Rascals, 114 Queenborough Road, Halfway. Telephone: 01795 667075
- Seashells, Rose Street, Sheerness. Telephone: 01795 663311  
[www.children-families.org](http://www.children-families.org)
- Pipsqueaks, Harris House, North Road Queenborough. Telephone: 01795 666420

### LOCAL SCHOOLS

- Oasis Academy, East Site, Minster Road, Minster. Telephone 01795 873591  
[www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org](http://www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org)
- Minster in Sheppey County Primary School, Brecon Chase, Minster.  
Telephone 01795 872138  
[www.minster-sheppey.kent.sch.uk](http://www.minster-sheppey.kent.sch.uk)
- Halfway Houses Primary School, Danley Road, Halfway ME12 3AP  
Telephone 01795 662875  
[www.halfwayhouses.kent.sch.uk](http://www.halfwayhouses.kent.sch.uk)
- St Georges Church of England Primary School, Chequers Road, Minster. Telephone: 01795 877667  
[www.st-georges-sheppey-kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-georges-sheppey-kent.sch.uk)
- Thistle Hill Academy Primary School, Aspen Drive, Minster  
Telephone 01795 899199  
[www.thistlehill.kent.sch.uk](http://www.thistlehill.kent.sch.uk)

### LOCAL PLAY AREAS

There are several children's Play Parks in Minster-on-Sea. These include: -

- Lovell Road
- Nunnery Grove (off Love Lane)
- New Road (behind the New Road Community Centre)
- Buckthorne Road
- Thistle Hill (near Thistle Hill Community Centre)

### BARTON'S POINT COASTAL PARK

Barton's Point has a cycle route, miniature railway, and a salt water lake. There are always events taking place there and it is also a popular area for dog walking.

Barton's Point, Marine Parade. Telephone 07909 994196

[www.bartonspointcoastalpark.co.uk](http://www.bartonspointcoastalpark.co.uk)



## YOUR LOCAL VILLAGE GREENS

'The Glen' in Minster is one of Minster-on-Sea's two village greens. The other is the 'Scrapsgate Open Space and Playing Field' situated at the end of Scrapsgate Road near the Broadway junction. The Glen has a children's play area as well as adult exercise machines. There is an entrance in Whybornes Chase and via The Glen Road which is off Minster Broadway.

## THE LEAS SEAFRONT

'The Leas' in Minster is a popular part of the Beach and has a colourful display of Beach Huts. This Promenade is popular with walkers, joggers and dog walkers (it is worth noting dogs are not allowed on the beach during April to October). Owners must keep them on the Promenade area. There are plenty of benches for those who like to sit and enjoy the sea view. There are also adult exercise machines positioned on along The Leas for everyone to enjoy.

## YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRES

There are three Community Centres in Minster-on-Sea. They are:

- Thistle Hill Community Centre, Thistle Hill Way, Telephone: 01795 873714
- New Road Community Centre, 55-57 New Road, Minster, Telephone: 07907439877
- Friendship House, Love Lane Minster, Telephone: 01795 874291

## LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS

Sheppey Rugby Club, Lower Road, Minster. Tel 01795 872082

[www.sheppeyrugbyfootballclubltd.rfu.club/](http://www.sheppeyrugbyfootballclubltd.rfu.club/)

Minster Cricket Club, Gilbert Hall, off Chequers Road, Minster. Tel 07912 994779

[www.minstercricket.co.uk](http://www.minstercricket.co.uk)

## PLACES OF WORSHIP

Minster Abbey

- Minster Abbey is one of the oldest Abbeys in Europe. It is a Church of England Abbey in Vicarage Road Minster. There is also a Church Hall behind it that is available to hire for functions. For more information, telephone 01795 871500

Roman Catholic Churches:

- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Harps Avenue Minster. Telephone: 01795 665812
- St Henry & St Elizabeth, 53 The Broadway, Sheerness Telephone: 01795 662142

Congregational Church

- Minster Bethel Congregational Church, Chapel Street, Minster: Tel: 01795 872404

Baptist Church

- Minster Road, Minster. Telephone: 01795 585135

Methodist Church,

- Hope Street, Sheerness, Telephone: 01795 663876

Sheppey Islamic Cultural Centre,  
➤ 14-16 Minster Road, ME12 3JF  
New Covenant Church,  
➤ Wards Hill Road, Telephone: 01795 872690

## TRAVEL

Chalkwell operate a bus service on the Island. For timetable details contact them at their office on 01795 423 982.

South Eastern Railways can be contacted for train travel timetables on 01732 378 751 or online at: [southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://southeasternrailway.co.uk)

Taxis: some local taxi firm numbers are 01795 662222, 01795 661515, 0800666321, 01795 664444, 01795 872222.

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Free, independent, confidential and impartial advice is available here to everyone on their rights and responsibilities: Welfare Benefits / Debt and Money Advice / Housing / Immigration and Nationality/ Employment / Family and Personal. The local Branch is in Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne. Opening hours are 10 am -2 pm Monday .

Telephone: 0808 278 7979.

Website: National Citizens Advice [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There is a local helpline for victims of Domestic Violence (01795) 417251 which is the Swale Action to End Domestic Abuse group (SATEDA). There is also a drop in at Sheppey Gateway, High Street, Street every Monday from 9.30 am until 12 noon. In an emergency call 999.

## SHEPPEY GATEWAY CENTRE

The Local Gateway Centre can provide you with access to a wide range of public, voluntary and community services. Whether you need to find information on registering a birth or finding out about a care home, you can get advice from them by telephoning 0845 8247202 or calling in their local office in Sheerness High Street.

## CONSUMER ADVICE

For Consumer advice or to report a rogue trader contact Kent Trading Standards who work in conjunction with Citizens Advice Bureau. Telephone: 03454 04 05 06

## LIBRARIES

Minster has its own popular and well used library in Worcester Close, Minster. Telephone: 03000 413131. There is also a library in the Sheerness Gateway Centre in Sheerness High Street.

## POST OFFICES

The sub-Post offices in Minster-on-Sea are:

- Minster Road (attached to Costcutter Supermarket) Telephone 01795 877105
- Minster Village, 4 Chapel Street, Minster Telephone 01795 872224
- The Main Post Office is in The Clock Tower, 84 High Street, Sheerness, Telephone 0345 722 3344

## Age UK Sheppey

Age UK Sheppey is a registered charity. It aims to improve life for older people in Sheppey. Its services and activities include day care, a new dementia unit, hot meal delivery, domestic support, hairdressing and chiropody, information and advice, social activities, day trips etc.

Age UK Sheppey advice hotline: [01795 662 562](tel:01795662562) Email: [admin@ageuksheppey.co.uk](mailto:admin@ageuksheppey.co.uk)