

To parents of members of Monkton Combe School Boat Club
From The Trustees of The Monkton Bluefriars Charitable Trust

Dear Parent,

Monkton Bluefriars was founded over 50 years ago. Its original purpose was to encourage and support rowing at Monkton, and the founding members were boys still at school, as well as former members of the school boat club (MCSBC).

Over the years, other groups of supporters have become involved and there are now over 700 members. 'Membership' of Bluefriars has been informal. Old Monktonians have had their membership noted within the school database, but an accurate list of other friends and supporters has been difficult to maintain.

In recent years, some parents of members of the school Boat Club have joined Bluefriars. Even if they haven't joined, many have benefited from the support Bluefriars has given to MCSBC over the years.

Bluefriars supports rowing in various ways, not least being financial. So far this year, we have put £4000 into an Easter training camp, and have acquired a new gazebo which we hope will be used by many parents at the National Schools Regatta. A new boat costing over £10,000 will be here in time for next season.

Support works best when there is "two-way traffic". Perhaps you might consider becoming involved in one of several ways, for example

- by acting as a host at the Bluefriars tent at National Schools Regatta
- by helping at the Bluefriars Head Race in October

One of the original purposes of Bluefriars was to enable current and recent members of the school boat club to row together. The existence of the independent Monkton Bluefriars Boat Club has been maintained and is still available for the above purpose, and current members of MCSBC can become members of Bluefriars.

The new data protection rules being introduced nationally require us to be somewhat more formal about membership than we have been in the past, so we are setting up our own independent database which will make it much easier to maintain an accurate and more useful membership list.

It will no doubt take a while to settle down, but we have started the process.

We very much hope that you will join Bluefriars so we can keep in touch with you. You can do this simply by registering at

<http://www.bluefriars.org.uk/forms/membership>

Children who are members of the school boat club usually become members after they have settled in and taken part in one or more races representing the school. They do so by using the form mentioned above. When they do so, you will immediately receive an email seeking your permission for us to store their name, @monkton.org.uk email address and phone number. They will not be allowed to enter any other contact information. The email will ask you to confirm that you are happy for us to store information supplied to us. If we don't get that confirmation from you, we will delete the email address and phone number from our system.

Sometime during the child's last term at school, we will invite them to transfer to adult membership. They may be under 18 when they do this, but we hope that you will understand that this change of status is best recorded before we lose track of them. Do get in touch if you have any concerns about this.

If we ever send a message to your child by email using the database, a copy will automatically come to you.

Last but not least, Bluefriars is there to help and encourage. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you think we may be of assistance. Grants are sometimes available to help with training camps and other expenses. We have in the past helped Old Monktonians by paying some of the bills associated with training courses, etc.

As a charity we welcome donations towards our funds. There is, for the time being at least, no membership fee, but it is the custom that school leavers start making regular donations to Bluefriars funds. No minimum donation is set, and they can (and often do) increase this donation as well as making use of the Gift Aid scheme when they are able to do so. Their predecessors have given generously, and each generation takes its turn to help its successors.

Julian Bewick

on behalf of the trustees, Monkton Bluefriars Charitable Trust

membership@bluefriars.org.uk