



**OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Parish Council Newsletter – May 2023**

**May Annual Parish Meeting**

This was an enjoyable and interesting evening. Thanks to our speakers:

- Cllr Charles Unter, Chairman, Offham Parish Council
- Neil Willis, Chairman, Offham Cricket Club
- Gill Speed, Head of Care and Training, Spadework
- Katherine Salter, Community Development Officer, East Malling Centre
- Trudy Dean, County and Borough Councillor and Chairman of West Malling Parish Council

Enormous thanks also to Mike Rowe for his technical support and fantastic photos.

The KALC Community Award was presented to Pam Begbey.

The Offham Village Awards were presented to Brian Jones and Robin Taylor.



The draft Minutes with information from all the speakers will shortly be available on the Parish Council website. There was also a discussion about the speed test results in the village carried out by Kent Highways, and around a 20mph speed limit for the village.

## **Annual Parish Council Meeting**

Cllr Charles Unter was re-elected as Chairman, and Cllr Sue Williams was elected as Vice-Chairman.

## **May Parish Council Meeting**

Following the recent uncontested election, the Parish Councillors are Charles Unter (Chairman), Sue Williams (Vice-Chairman), Phil Bailey, Adrian Marchant, Matt Scullion and Chris Stephens. The vacancy will be filled at the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillors act as representatives with various outside bodies, and as wardens to look after land, equipment and trees in the village, sometimes with assistance from residents and former Councillors:

- Cosgrave Field – Cllr Unter
- TMBC Parish Partnership Panel – Cllrs Unter and Stephens
- Blaise Farm – Cllr Unter and Cllr
- KALC T&M – Cllr Unter
- Highways Working Group – Cllrs Unter and Bailey
- Village Hall, Trees, The Pound, Book Box – Cllr Williams
- Recreation Ground, Play Area, Village Green, Bus Shelter – Cllrs Marchant and Bailey
- Speed Indicator Device – Cllr Bailey
- Offham Landfill Site and Offham Primary School– Cllr Stephens
- Wellbeing and Defibrillator– Cllr Scullion

We have three new Borough Councillors representing the new Ward of East Malling, West Malling and Offham – pictured below – Roger Roud, Michelle Tatton and Trudy Dean.



Blast Charges at Blaise Farm Quarry have increased from 20kg MIC to 25kg MIC for a trial period.

Offham Village Hall is looking for a new Committee Member to take bookings.

The Parish Council has agreed to resume the Annual Donation to the Village Hall of £1,000.

Cllrs will be meeting as part of a Highways Working Group to discuss the results of the recent Kent Highways Traffic Survey, liaise with Highways and consider a 20mph scheme in the Village.

Defibrillator Training has been arranged by Cllr Sue Williams with Kathryn Frankling on 17<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> July from 10am -2pm. There are defibrillators in the book box near the bus stop, at the Farm, at Spadework and a new one is being installed by the cricket club opposite the village hall.

May Day was a fantastic event, and thanks were given to Jeni Sandford Wilson for organising and to Darren for all his support for the event.

The Coronation Picnic on the Village Green was also a great celebration and thanks were given to Mike Rowe and the Offham Society for arranging this.

2024 Offham Calendars are now available for sale and more details are at the end of the newsletter.

## **Highways**

One way that the community can work together to improve speed is through Speedwatch - [Community Speedwatch | Kent Police](#)

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a road safety initiative that's coordinated by Kent Police and run by local communities. Trained volunteers monitor the speeds of vehicles using approved 'speed indication devices' (SIDs).

The aim of the initiative is to:

- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities
- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Speedwatch helps reduce speed. Kent Police collect the data about vehicle speeds and assess it. If problems with speeding and dangerous driving are shown, appropriate action is taken. This may include:

- raising the issues with Kent County Council Highways officers
- enforcing speed limits with help from the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership and their Special Constabulary
- enforcing road safety laws using local officers

If you are interested in taking part in the Speedwatch Initiative, please speak to one of the Councillors or contact the Parish Clerk – [clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk). If there are enough volunteers the Parish Council will look into arranging training and purchasing the necessary equipment. Speedwatch encourages drivers to slow down but also provides us with evidence to use when asking Kent Highways or the Police to take action.

## **POLICE – Neighbourhood Policing Review**

We have been updated with the outcome of the Neighbourhood Police Review. As it stands, the decision has been made not to use local PCSOs any longer; numbers have been cut from 336 to 102. The 102 PCSOs left will be joining new teams – Child Centred Team, Neighbourhood Task Force and Rural Task Force. We have not been given any information as to how these new teams will work yet. It is hoped that the PCSO role will be replaced with beat officers, but we haven't been told how long it will take for them to have enough officers in post to carry out this function or how they will work.

If you need to contact the police you can report anything direct on 101, online chat, online reporting or 999 just for emergencies.

The Parish Council is disappointed that there is no longer a dedicated PCSO for the village and will monitor how the new system works in practice.

## **BLAISE FARM QUARRY**

Message from Gallagher:

As many of you are aware Gallagher Aggregates Ltd is undertaking a series of trial blasts at Blaise Farm Quarry to ascertain the environmental impact of an increase in the Maximum Charge Weight of explosive in each individual discrete charge. This is scheduled to begin with two blasts on consecutive days this week – Wednesday and Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The blasts are to be monitored by third party specialist environmental consultants, Blast Log Ltd, who are based in Yorkshire and thus we are maximising the data capture per visit by firing on consecutive days. We are planning to carry out all of the trials in a similar manner, that is in pairs either on consecutive days or over three days. We will inform you of the subsequent trial blast dates closer to their taking place since operational technicalities may cause a change, but all of the trials will be completed within ninety days of the first blast on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

We do not anticipate the environmental impact of the trial blasts to be significantly different to usual blasts and the same existing planning permission constraints apply as to all of our blasting activities. The usual Approved Blast Monitoring Scheme will be applied with the third-party monitoring in addition to this.

## **Parish Council and Village Events**

- Defibrillator Training 17<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> July in the Committee Room, Offham Village Hall
- Lazy Sunday Jazz in Cosgrave Field in association with St Michael's Church – Sunday 23rd July 2023
- Men's Shed – The Kings Arms, every Thursday 10am-11.30am
- Offham Food Bank – every other Monday from Kings Arms ([offhamvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:offhamvillagehall@outlook.com))

The advertisement features the Malling logo at the top left and the NHS logo at the top right with the text 'Providing NHS services'. The main heading is 'FREE Health and Wellbeing Check' in blue. Below this, the dates 'Monday 12th June & Monday 10th July' and the time '1pm-4pm' are listed. The location is 'At Offham Village Hall, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling ME19 5NY'. A paragraph encourages residents to chat about health concerns and receive a full health MOT. A bulleted list of services includes BMI, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Blood Sugar, Diet & exercise advice, Smoking & Alcohol Reduction, and support with social issues. An illustration of a yellow mobile health unit with a white cross is shown on the right. At the bottom, it states 'Simply walk in, no appointment necessary' and 'Welcome to all 18+'.

**Malling**  
Providing NHS services

**FREE Health and Wellbeing Check**

**Monday 12th June & Monday 10th July**  
**1pm-4pm**

**At Offham Village Hall, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling ME19 5NY**

Take the opportunity to chat to us about any health concerns and receive a full health MOT. Health Checks include:

- BMI
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol
- Blood Sugar
- Diet & exercise advice
- Smoking & Alcohol Reduction
- Support with social issues that may be impacting on your wellbeing

**Simply walk in, no appointment necessary**  
**Welcome to all 18+**

Message from Borough Councillor Trudy Dean:

I am now happy to report that the mobile Health Clinic is visiting Offham on **12<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> July** from 1 till 4 in the afternoon, as per the attached advert. I'm delighted with this outcome of my request. I hope that Offham residents over 18 will take advantage of the service to get the regular check-ups which it offers, and discuss any health concerns they may have.

If a GP appointment is required, the clinic staff can sometimes help with that too.  
Thanks are also due to Offham Village Hall for finding a slot to accommodate the vehicle.

**Contact the Parish Council** E: [clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk) T: 07563 606573. The Parish Council Clerk works 12 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, and aims to respond to emails and phone calls within 5 working days. For more information, please go to our website [www.offham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.offham-pc.gov.uk)

**Offham Parish Council Meetings**

The next meeting will be **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.





# Offham Parish Council Calendar 2024



All funds raised will go to Village Projects such as the Play Area

**£6 each or 2 for £10**

available to purchase from:

- **Sue**

19 Pepingstraw Close, [sue.williams@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.williams@offham-pc.gov.uk)

- **The Kings Arms Pub**



Or contact [clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk)

**NU-VENTURE**

**Buses 58 and 70 from 13 February 2023**

*Kent County Council financial support for buses 58 and 70 ends from 12 February 2023 and school-time buses 558/578 also cease to serve the Malling area. However, until July 2023, Nu-Venture will continue to operate a limited replacement daytime service on certain days of the week as shown below.*

*Please - use it or lose it! Continuation beyond July 2023 will be dependent on usage in coming months.*

**Fridays only - starts 17 February 2023**

**Nu-Venture Bus 58**

<b>BOROUGH GREEN STATION</b>	<b>0930</b>	<b>MAIDSTONE King St (Boots)</b>	<b>1300</b>
Wrotham Square	0935	<i>also stops at Town Hall and West Stn</i>	
Addington <i>opp The Green</i>	0945	Aylesford (A20) <i>Sainsbury's</i>	1318
Trottiscliffe <i>opp The George</i>	0954	A20 Ditton Corner	1321
Wrotham Heath <i>adj The Vineyard</i>	0959	Larkfield <i>Wealden Hall</i>	1323
Addington <i>opp Jungle Café</i>	1003	East Malling <i>opp King &amp; Queen</i>	1326
Ryarsh <i>opp Duke of Wellington</i>	1008	West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1334
Birling <i>opp Nevill Bull</i>	1011	Leybourne <i>adj The Old Rectory</i>	1339
Leybourne <i>Baywell</i>	1016	Birling <i>adj Nevill Bull</i>	1345
West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1023	Ryarsh <i>adj Duke of Wellington</i>	1348
East Malling <i>King &amp; Queen</i>	1031	A20 Addington <i>Jungle Café</i>	1353
Larkfield <i>opp Wealden Hall</i>	1035	Addington <i>opp The Green</i>	1356
A20 <i>Hall Road opp Sainsbury's</i>	1039	Trottiscliffe <i>opp The George</i>	1401
<b>MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE</b>	<b>1055</b>	Wrotham Heath <i>adj The Vineyard</i>	1408
		Wrotham Square	1413
		<b>BOROUGH GREEN STATION</b>	<b>1418</b>

**Mondays only - starts 13 February 2023**

**Nu-Venture Bus 70**

Wrotham Square	0930	West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1145
<b>BOROUGH GREEN STATION</b>	<b>0937</b>	East Malling <i>King &amp; Queen</i>	1153
Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	0942	TESCO LUNSFORD PK <i>Chaucer Way</i>	1200
Wrotham Heath <i>Royal Oak</i>	0945	Leybourne Chase <i>Costcutter</i>	1210
Offham Green	0950	West Malling High St <i>Tesco</i>	1220
West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	0956	Offham Green	1225
Leybourne Chase <i>opp Costcutter</i>	1006	Wrotham Heath <i>Royal Oak</i>	1230
TESCO LUNSFORD PK <i>Chaucer Way</i>	1016	Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	1233
East Malling <i>opp King &amp; Queen</i>	1024	<b>BOROUGH GREEN STATION</b>	<b>1238</b>
West Malling High St <i>Tesco</i>	1032	Wrotham Square	1243

Code M = Mondays only - No service on other days. NO service on Bank Holidays

Code F = Fridays only - No service on other days. NO service on Bank Holidays

Buses serve all bus stops on line of route.

When boarding, please give a clear hand-signal as the bus approaches.

Pay on the bus with cash or card. Single and return fares available for all journeys.

We welcome the English National Concessionary Travel Pass.

# KENT'S PLAN BEE



## April 2023 Newsletter - No Mow May Special

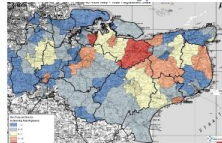
### Kent's Plan Bee "No Mow May Pledge" Site Re-opens for 2023

If you haven't already, it's time to put away the lawnmower and strimmer, sit back, relax, and tune in to the gentle hum of your local pollinators.

#### What is No Mow May?

No Mow May is a campaign by the charity Plantlife to let your lawn grow throughout May and provide a carpet of flowers for your pollinators to feed on. Why not give it a go this year to see what colourful flowers appear and the pollinators that they attract? Even leaving a small patch of your lawn uncut will make a big difference. For more information visit the [Plantlife website](#).

If you complete May and want to continue not mowing, you can leave your lawn uncut into June, even July and August. This will allow the flowers to continue to bloom and go to seed, giving you more flowers for the following year.



Hotspots in Kent with hundreds of those who took part in No Mow May 2022. Hotspots were in Faversham and Gillingham

- 352 pledges were received from 336 residents and 16 organisations.
- The total area of land pledged to be left uncut amounted to over 14 hectares or 35 acres, which roughly equates to almost 500 tennis courts!
- On a District basis, the highest area of land pledged was in Swale, and the largest individual numbers of pledges were recorded in Swale and Canterbury.

But this year, we want to make it bigger and better! Can we pledge more land than last year? Which District will record the most pledges this time? Make sure to share your pledge with your family, friends, and neighbours to get them involved and make this No Mow May even bigger than last year! Visit <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/plan-bee> today and enter your pledge to be part of the campaign.

As well as our pledge site, this month on our [Facebook page](#) we will be bringing you tips for improving your lawn for wildflowers, along with what Kent County Council are doing for No Mow May (read the article on the next page for a sneak peek into KCC's No Mow May Sites). And at the end of May, don't forget to take part in Plantlife's Every Flower Counts survey to see which flowers are growing in your lawn!

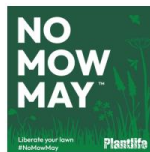


Make the No Mow May Pledge today and show your support for Kent's wildflowers and pollinators

#### No Mow May Pledge Site

We want to know if you are taking part in No Mow May this year. As part of raising awareness for the Plantlife campaign, our pledge site on our [Let's Talk website](#) has been re-opened for 2023 so Kent residents and organisations taking part in No Mow May can say where in the county you are leaving your lawn uncut for May. Whether a garden or allotment, or you're a business or landowner looking to pledge a larger piece of land, we want to hear what you have planned!

This is the second year we are running the survey. Last year's results revealed that:



### Kent County Council's No Mow May Sites

Kent County Council (KCC) is introducing new sites to be included this year in its No Mow May campaign, allowing wildflowers to blossom, grow and help precious pollinating insects to feed, nest, and breed. In total, 13 new KCC locations have been put forward for No Mow May this year, which join the areas left for conservation efforts by Highways set up in previous years.

#### Country Parks

Six of KCC's Country Parks are joining the No Mow May campaign by allowing more than 50 hectares (over 123 acres) to flourish – being managed specifically for valuable habitats and features favoured by rare wildflowers and insects.

Look out for:

- The wildflower meadows and pond areas for pollinators, plus solitary bee holes in fence posts at Brockhill Country Park.
- A combination of grazing and mechanical cutting to create the conditions for wildflowers to thrive at Trosley Country Park.
- Grazing of Cheviot goats at Preston Hill next to Lullingstone Country Park. Also, the pollinator picnic tables next to the meadow!



Wildflower meadow at Brockhill Country Park



Acid/neutral grassland verge RNR near Tunbridge Wells

#### Highways

More than 450km of road verges in rural and urban areas across Kent are managed specifically for conservation, by KCC Highways. This includes Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs). These verges provide invaluable habitat corridors for wildflowers, pollinating insects, and other wildlife.

Look out for:

- The neutral grassland verge of the Tonbridge RNR which provides an important flower rich steppingstone for pollinators in an urban environment.
- The acid/neutral grassland verge RNR near Tunbridge Wells that supports many pollinators and other invertebrates through its wildflower diversity.
- Oxeye daisies & a huge diversity of wildflowers at the RNR near Maidstone.

#### Household Waste Recycling Centres

Five Household Waste Recycling Centres with valuable grassland areas will be allowed to grow throughout May.

Look out for:

- A wide grassy verge to the entrance of Margate Household Waste Recycling Centre, with planters and bug boxes made from recycled materials.
- An area of neutral improved grassland at Dover Refuse Transfer Station that is part of site used to welcome school groups learning about recycling, and hopefully soon biodiversity!
- Three pockets of semi-improved grassland and verges within the New Romney Household Waste Recycling Centre, kept short by rabbit grazing.



Planters and bug boxes at Margate Household Waste Recycling Centre



Unmanaged grassland at Thistley Hill in Dover

#### Other KCC Sites

Other KCC sites also joining the campaign include the grounds around KCC offices, day care centres and adult education centres.

Look out for:

- Over 3 Acres of semi-improved chalk grassland and other habitat at Thistley Hill in Dover. Whilst grassland around the buildings and car parks is regularly mown, the remaining areas of grassland and scrub have been unmanaged for several years and are already great for pollinators.
- Other KCC offices, such as Worrall House in Kings Hill, are leaving parts of their grounds unmown. Overtime, it is hoped that some KCC staff may volunteer with pollinator monitoring activities during their lunch breaks.

Make sure to follow our [Facebook page](#) for more information on KCC's No Mow May sites. We will also be posting about how you can improve your lawn for wildflowers and pollinators throughout May.

Below are some websites for further information on No Mow May and managing your gardens and lawns for pollinators and other wildlife:

- [Plantlife's No Mow May](#)
- [Kent Wildlife Trust Wild About Gardens](#)
- [RSPB Wild Lawns for Wildlife](#)
- [Gardener's World – 5 tips for a wildlife-friendly lawn](#)
- [Natural History Museum - How to grow a lawn that's better for wildlife](#)





### Pollinators to see in May

It's May and the emergence of spring pollinators is in full swing.  
**Bees:** Shirl Carder Bumblebee (*Bombus sylvarum*), Wool carder bee (*Anthidium manicatum*), Long-horned bee (*Eucera longicornis*)  
**Moths:** Elephant Hawk-moth (*Dellephila elpenor*), Cinnabar (*Trypa jacobaeae*), Yellow-barred Long Horn (*Nemophora degeerella*)  
**Butterflies:** Common Blue (*Polymmatas icarus*), Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*)  
**Beetles:** Common Cockchafer (*Melolontha melolontha*), Sulphur beetle (*Ctenopus sulphureus*)  
**Wasps:** Ruby-tailed Wasp (*Chrysis ignita* agg.), Black-banded spider wasp (*Anoplius vittatus*)  
**Flies/ hoverflies:** Batman Hoverfly (*Myathropa florea*), Broad Centurion (*Chironomyia Formosa*)  
**Wildflowers** to spot this month include Bluebells, Buttercups, Common Vetch, Cowslips, Cow Parsley, Garlic Mustard, Ground Ivy, Oxeye Daisy, and Speedwells.

Spotted any of these or any other pollinators and wildflowers? Post them on our [Facebook page](#), tag us in your photos @KentsPlanBee or email us your photos.

### Upcoming Events and Resources

#### Wild About Open Gardens

The Wild About Open Garden events are back! The next event is taking place on 14 May in Minster. Book onto this and other events through the [Kent Wildlife Trust website](#).

- Sun 14 May 1-5pm: 26 Cliff Gardens, Minster, Sheppey, ME12 3QY
- Sun 4 Jun 1-5pm: Bagchild, Sittingbourne
- Sun 11 Jun 1-5pm: 68 South Hill Road, Gravesend, DA12 1JZ
- Sat 17 Jun 1-5pm: 1 Victoria Close, Edenbridge, TN8 5BT
- Sat 24 Jun 1-5pm: Myrtle House, Headcorn Road, Grady Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AR
- Sun 25 Jun 1-5pm: Endymion, Perry Wood, Salling, Faversham, ME813 9SF
- Sat 23 July 11am-4pm: Goodnestone Park, near Sandwich
- Sat 3 Sep 1-5pm: Lacey Down, 22 Canterbury Road, Lydden, Dover, CT15 7ER

#### Bumblebee Conservation Trust Free

##### Online Identification Training

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust are hosting several free online events to improve your bumblebee identification skills. Book your free place through the Trust's [events calendar](#) on their website.

Entry-level: 12 May, Intermediate-level: 23 May

#### Other Pollinator Events

There are a few other pollinator events coming up. Use the links below to find out more and book your places:

- Singleton Environment Centre & Kent's Magnificent Moths – 14 May, 1030-1230, Singleton Environment Centre, Ashford – [Magnificent Moths for Beginners](#)
- White Cliffs Countryside Partnership Green Gang – 28 May, 1400-1530, Samphire Hoe – [Make a Giant Orchid](#) (Childrens event)
- White Cliffs Countryside Partnership Green Gang – 30 May, 1300-1500, Folkestone Warren – [Butterflies, Bees and other insects](#) (Childrens event)
- Friends of Kingsmead Field – 7 June, starts 1930, St Stephen's Church Hall, Canterbury CT2 7AB - 'The Plight of the Bumblebee' talk

Keep up to date with the latest news via our [Kent's Plan Bee Facebook page](#)

If you received this email indirectly and would like to subscribe to our mailing list, please email us on the address below with the subject line "Sign Up". If you wish to unsubscribe from this mailing list, please email us on the address below with the subject line "Unsubscribe". Do you have a Kent pollinator news story or event that you would like featured in our newsletters? Have you created a pollinator friendly community space? Got your neighbours together to create a row of pollinator friendly gardens? Or do you have an event about Kent's pollinators you would like advertised? Email it to the address below and we will be in contact about a potential space in the Newsletter.

[planbee@kent.gov.uk](mailto:planbee@kent.gov.uk)

All the previous editions of the Newsletter have now been added to our webpage. You can download them as PDFs or share the website address on your social media. Find all the Newsletters on the [Pollinators section of Kent County Council's website](#).

Edited by Hannah Simmons, Graduate Biodiversity Officer, Kent County Council.

For a Pollinator Friendly Garden of England

### POLLINATORS TO SEE IN MAY

