



## OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Council Newsletter – December 2023

#### December Parish Council Meeting

- Councillors were sad to accept the retirement of Charles Unter from the Parish Council. Charles has served on the Parish Council for a number of years, including almost 3 years as Chairman, and he will be much missed.
- There is now a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested or would like to find out more about the role, please contact the clerk for more information [clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk) or the new Chairman Cllr Sue Taylor - [sue.taylor@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.taylor@offham-pc.gov.uk).
- Cllr Sue Taylor was elected as the new Chairman of Offham Parish Council and congratulated on her new role.
- There is now a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested or would like any more information, please contact [clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk).

#### Tonbridge and Malling On and Off Street Parking Consultation

Residents are being given a say on changes to car parking charges across the borough. A review of all council-owned car parks could see the charging period in most places extended to 8pm and include Sundays and bank holidays. The introduction of charges to three car parks and two on-street areas which are currently free in Aylesford, Larkfield and West Malling are also planned along with options for increased parking capacity.

Parish Councillors object to these proposals and are concerned about the detrimental effect on businesses who rely on the free parking which allow people to “pop in” to shops, the Post Office, the Doctors Surgery etc.

The two consultations (On Street Parking and Off Street Parking) are available at <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/consultations> and run until 7th January 2024.

You can subscribe to receive a newsletter with updates from TMBC at <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/newsletter>

#### KALC and Offham Village Community Awards

Do you know somebody in Offham who deserves to be acknowledged and recognised for making a significant contribution over a considerable period of time to our local community?

The Parish Council is participating in the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Awards Scheme 2024 and is also running its own Parish Council Awards Scheme. Details of previous winners are at the end of the newsletter. All nominations must be received by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.



## **Kent County Council**

Councillor Hohler reported:

- KCC have made a decision about children's youth services. There will be a number of family hubs where parents can go to get advice and which can be easily accessed. More information will be provided in due course.
- There were 1,700 replies to the consultation about children's hubs. (thought this was better next to the appropriate point)
- She provided a fire brigade poster for Notice Boards.
- Sometimes KCC have to suspend what they are doing as there is so much pressure caused by taking unaccompanied asylum seeker children. This is not just a Kent problem; they see it as a National problem and believe the National Transfer System needs to be speeded up. KCC launched a judicial review which has been successful, and now the government are working with them to identify places children can stay.
- There is a new scheme to recycle laptops or phones so they won't be going to landfill:  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/rubbish-and-recycling/device-recycling-scheme>
- Government has allotted £4.296m to KCC for additional road repair funding for the next year and £134.5m over the next decade.

## **Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council**



Councillor Dean reported:

- 40 Acres is the new development between Winterfield Lane and Rectory Lane. KCC has removed a lot of trees that weren't expected to be removed, many complaints have been received regarding this action. An application for Tree Preservation Order's was submitted to TMBC but wasn't processed in time as they have a backlog of TPO orders. Subsequently a retrospective planning application will be submitted in due course.
- County reports
- She has approved design costs for a 20mph scheme in West Malling.
  - There is a proposal for a one-way system through East Malling.
  - Kent Highways are beginning a system where they will collect data about car crashes that do not involve fatalities or serious injuries.
  - KCC are looking for Parish Council land on which to install electric vehicle chargers.
  - The budget is a big issue and it is looking very serious. They need to find £20m in savings this year and it is looking like there will be a £50-60m gap next year between money available and costs. So the budget KCC is looking at is extremely damaging. Nearly all youth services will disappear, which were delivered by an outside provider. There will be reductions in packages of support for children with disabilities, reductions in the cost of transport for children with SEN, and other plans will be reduced.
  - A quick survey of WMPC following complaints about postal delivery showed about half the members are suffering problems with erratic delivery. This affects business and residents.
  - There was a discussion about TMBC's on and off street parking consultation. Some traders in West Malling have expressed concern that their businesses may not survive if charges are brought in, and it would affect the monthly Farmers Market as traders park in Ryarsh Lane.

## **Police**

PC Dylan McElligott has taken over the area from PC Lisa Whitehead.

## **Report:**

On 07/12/2023, in Trottiscliffe there were approximately 7 shed/garage breaks whereby suspects took items such as tools, strimmers and jet washers. Police attended and disturbed the suspect who unfortunately managed to evade officers by travelling over fields which caused difficulty when pursuing them. There have been shed breaks in various locations across the Malling side of Tonbridge/Malling however, Trottiscliffe was particularly targeted on this occasion and it is not unusual for suspects to target one village before moving on to the next village nearby.

Advice I am offering to residents includes;

- Consider CCTV/Ring doorbells
- Shed alarm/motion sensors
- Secure locks that can't be cut
- Secure valuable items
- Dial 999 if there is a break in progress

## **Highways**

The Parish Council continues to work with Kent Highways on the Highways Improvement Plan. Unfortunately, KCC Planning and Advice have decided after investigations that they will refuse the application to reduce the speed limit to 20mph on Teston Road through the Village and on Church Road. The Parish Council will consider this further.

## **Speedwatch**

Speedwatch is operating independently of the Parish Council. Cllr Fred Steer is the co-ordinator. He is making great progress and if you would like more information about the group he can be contacted on [fred.steer@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:fred.steer@offham-pc.gov.uk).

Kent Highways have generously offered funding to purchase Speedwatch equipment for the Village.

## **Play Area**

The major fund raising project for years has been to refurbish the much loved and well used childrens play area.

Thank you to everyone who attended the two October clean up sessions which have helped keep the area clean and open for use.

Cllr Phil Bailey has led work to carry out essential repairs, which were carried out recently by Playdale.

Meanwhile, Cllr Sue Taylor has been leading plans to replace equipment, renovate the area, and to obtain grant funding. Following a consultation circulated to the Primary School and residents, 165 questionnaires were returned along with 30 letters of support and drawings from the children, Village societies, businesses and residents. This was an amazing response and showed how important the play area and recreation ground are in the village. Although all ideas have been considered, we cannot install a zip wire or skate park as we do not have the space in the recreation ground. However, many ideas that have been suggested have been taken into consideration with the design which has been formulated. More information will follow in due course.

Work has been allocated into two phases.

Phase One is for the Recreation Ground. Following a meeting with Cllr Taylor, Cllr Unter and the TMBC Planning Obligations Officer, Cllr Taylor has been able to secure £75,000 funding for out door sports equipment and replacement of the circular track in the Recreation Ground. New equipment

will include replacement football posts, nets, flags and a footballers shelter. Together with an iconic agility net, combination agility trail, table tennis table and chess table. This is fantastic news and has involved a lot of hard work. The Parish Council is incredibly grateful to TMBC for their support. The money is from s106 funds provided to TMBC from building works that have taken place in Kings Hill. The Parish Council has approved plans for the Recreation Ground. Councillors hope to be able to share details of the plans, and a start date for work, very soon. Cllr Taylor continues to work closely with TMBC and equipment providers.

Phase Two is for the enclosed play area. Again, Cllr Taylor has led the work to obtain plans and quotes, and has applied for a grant from FCC Community Action Fund. We will have to wait until March to see if the application is successful. The application is for 90% of the funding of a new and exciting enclosed playground scheme that will cost £83,375 VAT.

The Parish Council needs to provide 10% of the cost, and needs to also show third party funding. Work to fund raise will continue towards this essential project.

### **2024 Calendar**

Cllr Sue Williams was congratulated for putting together the 2024 calendar, and together with Wendy Williams and other Councillors, there have been sales of £747.50. Thanks are given to Patrick Bligh for arranging and collecting a fantastic £520 in sponsorship. After printing costs, that leaves a profit of £642.50 towards parish projects.

There are still calendars available – which will make excellent Christmas presents – please contact Sue - 19 Pepingstraw Close, [sue.williams@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.williams@offham-pc.gov.uk), or go to The Kings Arms Pub

### **Parish Council and Village Events**

- The Christmas Lights were very successful. Thanks to David Frankling for arranging the lights and to Steve and Wendy Rickett. Cllr Adrian Marchant put the lights into the trees and was thanked for his hard work. The Parish Council donated £100 to the Kings Arms towards refreshments provided after the Christmas Lighting and for the Carols. Thanks to Matt and Saffi.
- Carols in the Pub 21.12.23
- 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))

### **TMBC Christmas Recycling and Refuse Collections**

We now have the scheduled Christmas collection arrangements online (<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/christmas-waste-collections>).

Due to the way the Bank Holidays fall this year and the availability of disposal sites, we will not be collecting on Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December or Monday 1 January. As a result, collections will be pushed back, with catch up collections on Saturdays 30 December and 6 & 13 January, with the final day's catch up on the latter. Collections will revert to the normal schedule from Monday 15 January. The postcode search now reflects the changes of collection day over the holiday period, and we also have Christmas recycling advice on the website. This is all linked from the usual Waste Updates page (<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/check-waste-collection-updates/1>), as well as the home page of the website: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/>

### **Offham Cricket Club**

A copy of the cricket club's October newsletter is included at the end of this newsletter

**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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.



# Offham Parish Council

## Community Awards Scheme 2024

Do you know somebody in Offham who deserves to be acknowledged and recognised for making a significant contribution over a considerable period of time to our local community? The Parish Council is participating in the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Awards Scheme 2024 and is also running its own Parish Council Awards Scheme. All nominations must be received by **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

### Previous Winners:

#### **2022/2023**

KALC Community Award: Pam Begbey

Offham Community Award: Brian Jones and Robin Taylor

#### **2021/2022**

KALC Community Award: Caroline Dyer

Offham Community Award: Rachel Godfrey and George Rothschild

#### **2020/2021**

KALC Community Award: David Frankling

Offham Community Award: Wendy Williams

#### **2019/20**

KALC Community Award: David Stretton

Offham Community Award: Stewart and Sally Biggs

#### **2018/19**

KALC Community Award: Stephen Betts

Offham Community Award: Martyn Begbey and Collin Ellis

#### **2017/18**

KALC Community Award: Fiona Lloyd-Williams

Offham Community Award: Malcolm Goodwin and Clive Turpie

#### **2016/17**

KALC Community Award: Clare Innes

Offham Community Award: Val Taylor and Stewart Malcolm

#### **2015/16**

KALC Community Award: Mike Rowe

Offham Community Award: Paul Nelson and Stewart Betts

#### **2014/15**

KALC Community Award: John Lander

Offham Community Award: Colin Wolfe and Phyllis Jones

#### **2013/14**

KALC Community Award: Gloria Pearson

Offham Community Award: Ron Marchant and Joan Phipps



With the kind permission of Kris Healey, General Manager, of Spadework, the Offham banner to promote speed awareness was sited at the gateway adjacent Spadework with the support of some of their woodwork Trainees photographed alongside Simon Mahoney representing Offham Society and Chairman of the Parish Council, Charles Unter.

## 👤 NSPCC CHRISTMAS FAYRE 👤

The Offham and West Malling NSPCC supporter group wish to extend our huge thanks to all those kind people who supported our **Charity Christmas Fayre** last Sunday, I am sure you will be delighted to learn that **we raised nearly £3,000**, which is just amazing.

Thank you for making cakes, eating cakes, buying raffle tickets and not winning, riding on the bus with Father Christmas, pretending you needed to accompany a young person, for giving a tombola prize then winning it back, and for giving up a Sunday to stand in the cold, when you could have been at home eating a roast lunch in front of a fire. The amount raised is amazing – you are amazing.

This money really will make the difference to the lives of many children, on their behalf sincere thanks again.

Wishing all our generous friends and neighbours a Very Happy Christmas.

Kind regards

Ann, Dawn, Shirley, Amanda, Dee, Clare, Veronica and Patricia



A consultation has recently opened to help identify public places in Tonbridge and Malling where women and girls feel unsafe.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has teamed up with neighbouring West Kent authorities and the police for the project which will use public feedback to develop initiatives to strengthen community safety.

Violence against women and girls includes, but is not limited to, harassment, stalking, rape, sexual assault, murder, honour-based abuse and coercive control. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women.

The online survey invites people to share their experiences of feeling unsafe in particular locations, such as outdoor public spaces, while commuting and socialising. It is being run in partnership with Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells borough councils and runs until Sunday 7 January 2024.

[Violence against women and girls consultation – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council \(tmbc.gov.uk\)](https://www.tmbc.gov.uk)





KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

## CHURCH ROAD, OFFHAM

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 – Section 14 (2)

Kent County Council gives notice that Church Road, Offham will be closed to through traffic, on 20th December 2023 for up to 2 days.

The road will be closed at the junction of the A20 London Road.

The alternative route is via Teston Road, Seven Mile Lane, A20 London Road and vice versa.

It is planned that the road will be closed between 09:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs each day. This closure is necessary to enable manhole cover repairs to be carried out by Kent County Council.

This Notice applies when the relevant signs and barriers are on site and is valid for a period of no more than 5 days.

Signed for and on behalf of the Kent County Council.  
Haroon Chughtai, Director of Highways & Transportation, or by her authorised signatory.

Authorised Signatory

Dated this 14th day of December 2023  
Kent County Council County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XG

## Openreach - Temporary Road Closure - Aldon Lane, West Malling - 31st January 2024 (Tonbridge and Malling District)

Due to works planned to be undertaken by **Openreach**, It will be necessary to close part of Aldon Lane, West Malling, from 31st January 2024 with estimated completion by 1st February 2024.

Aldon Lane, West Malling, will be closed from Aldon Manor to Aldon Farm House, between the hours of 08:00 and 16:00 only. To the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

The alternative route for any through traffic is via Aldon Lane, Teston Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, A20 London Road and vice versa.

Pedestrian access will be maintained during the works.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while allowing fibre works to be carried out, works are undertaken by Openreach.

For the most up to date information on these works please visit: <https://one.network/?tm=135762796>

For information regarding this closure please contact Openreach, who will be able to assist with the scope of these works.

The Kent County Council Highways Helpline phone number is: 03000 418181



Map data © [MapTiler](#) © [OpenStreetMap contributors](#)

This bulletin contains public information and can be forwarded to any other road users who may be affected. Every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the information, but no liability can be accepted for any changes or errors.

Road names are taken from the National Street Gazetteer, which can be viewed on [one.network](#), with alternative names given where known.

For details of roadworks, please see [One.Network](#)

Regards,  
Streetworks West Central Team  
03000 418181 (9am - 5pm)  
03000 419191 (5pm - 9am)



# 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)



## Guided group walks – December 2023

Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. We explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge and Malling and surrounding areas.



You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three 'taster' walks with us.

If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you.

**For details of these and other upcoming walks and walk leaders, see [www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk).**

*Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers at Withyham*

Sunday 3 December	A leisurely and gentle circular walk around Mereworth Woods.	3.5 miles
Wednesday 6 December	Leisurely walk from Dunk's Green to Ightham Mote (coffee break) and on to Shipbourne through orchards, fields and woods. 7 stiles and no hills.	5.5 miles
Wednesday 13 December	A leisurely and level circular walk from The Plough at Powder Mills to Leigh.	4.5 miles
Sunday 17 December	Circular walk from St Mary's Platt through woodland, farmland, apple orchards and quiet lanes with valley views towards Claygate Cross and Basted. Moderate difficulty.	6.2 miles
Wednesday 20 December	A flat and leisurely circular walk from Haysden Country Park in Tonbridge, towards Haysden Water and on through the Eden Valley, returning via Lower Haysden.	4 miles

Sunday 24 December	Three churches circular walk from West Malling. Fairly flat; moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Thursday 28 December	Circular walk from Watlingbury Station along the Medway Valley then up over the hill past Roydon Hall and back down via Pizien Wells. Moderate difficulty.	6 miles
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).		



## Guided group walks – January 2024



Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. We explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge and Malling and surrounding areas.

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three 'taster' walks with us.

If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you.

**For details of these and other upcoming walks and walk leaders, see**

[www.tonbridgeandmallingramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingramblers.org.uk).

*Oxenhoath estate towards Hadlow*

Thursday 4 January	Leisurely walk from Parker's Green through fields, woodland and alongside the River Bourne to Golden Green. Return through orchards and along farm tracks and quiet roads.	5.5 miles
Sunday 7 January	Leisurely circular walk below the North Downs from Wrotham to the St Clare estate.	4 miles
Thursday 11 January	Circular walk from Chiddingstone through woodland, fields and the grounds of Hever Castle. Some lane walking and good views. Moderate difficulty.	5.8 miles
Sunday 14 January	Leisurely circular walk from Matfield to Brenchley through orchards and fields, with some solid tracks and a little road walking. Lovely views, quiet and peaceful.	4.5 miles
Wednesday 17 January	From Trosley Country Park along the North Downs Way into Whitehorse Wood, past Coldrum Long Barrow into Ryarsh Wood. Return across fields. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Sunday 21 January	Gentle stroll around Knole Park. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Wednesday 24 January	Circular walk from Offham through the woods to Mereworth. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles

Sunday 28 January	Plaxtol Round: Undulating walk around Plaxtol. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).		

**NEWSLETTER**  
April 2023



The 2023 season has now been wrapped up and it is time to take a look at the continued success and development of the club, played in the glorious surroundings of The Offham Cricket Ground.

**Junior Cricket**



Development of our younger members continues to be a major priority for the club and our junior teams continue to go from strength to strength.

The highlight this year was our U15 side (left) winning the West Kent Premier League.

Unbeaten through the season, the team regularly won matches by a wide margin, often against teams whose adult sides play at the top of the Kent League.



U13 and U11 teams enjoyed successful seasons in their respective leagues, and players of all ages developed as a consequence of the high quality coaching and guidance they received on Friday evenings.

Winter training, in preparation for the 2024 season, commences on Friday 10th November, from 5.30pm - 7.30pm, at The Maplesden Nook School until early December. It will recommence at the same venue in February.

As in previous seasons we continued to give opportunities to many young players to participate in adult cricket each weekend. Increasing numbers have played leading roles in both of our Kent Cricket League (KCL) sides, as well as our successful Sunday Kent Village League team.

Opportunities exist for young players to join our squads; parents or carers are able to send an initial enquiry through the 'Contact Us' section of the club website.

**Senior Cricket**



The club's Kent Cricket League teams entered a new realm as the league structure was overhauled for the season. The 1st XI (above left) were pace setters early in the campaign, but a combination of games lost to the weather and some key defeats meant that they were unable to sustain their promotion push. They finally finished in 4th place.

The 2nd XI (top right), were seeking to consolidate their position having been promoted in the previous season. They struggled with the improved standard in the initial matches, but through some decisive performances by younger members of the team they gradually gained wins that ensured their place in the league for 2024.



Our Saturday 3rd XI continued to develop, having found a 'home' ground for a number of fixtures, leading to increased opportunities for junior players, a number of whom earned places in our KCL teams.

The Sunday KVL side (left) ended the season triumphant. They swept all before them, winning every game and having

Ultimately, captain Dave Francis (below) finished as the league's leading wicket taker, collecting his trophies at the league Awards Evening, and John Olutawo the league's top run scorer. Members of the victorious squad also collected the league winners shield the same evening.





### Celebrating last season



In early October the club celebrated individual and team achievements from the season.

At a well attended Awards Evening, held at the West Malling Golf Club, winners received their trophies from club President Stephen Belts.



Prior to the final matches, one warm September Sunday, many club members enjoyed a club day at the The OCG. This gave everyone within the OCC family, young and old, to come together for an afternoon enjoy a social game, BBQ and reminisce about the season just gone

### And preparing for the next

The AGM was held on Friday 22nd September. Some officials decided to stand down at the end of the season after considerable service to the club and we thank them for everything that they have for the club. However we were delighted that other members were keen to take up these roles, whilst others will continue in post. Those elected were:

Chairman	Neil Willis	1st XI Captain	David Sibley
Secretary	Daniel Blakeburn	2nd XI Captain	John Ardley
Treasurer	Michael Gittings	3rd XI Captain	Simon Hallbrook
Groundsman	Nigel Stoodley	Sunday Captain	Charlie Razezy
Bar Secretary	Ben Gittings	Junior Coach	Daniel Blakeburn
Social Secretary	Daniel Gilbert	Club Welfare Officer	Neil Willis
Fixture Secretary	David Sibley	100 Club Secretary	John Powell

We still need to fill the Junior Fixture Secretary role and wish to add to the number of junior team managers and coaches that we have to support the operation of this section. If you believe that you could help us please let Daniel Blakeburn know or send a message to [d@hamnickclub@gmail.com](mailto:d@hamnickclub@gmail.com)

We wish to continue to make playing for our junior and senior sides as accessible as possible and seek to avoid cost being a barrier to this happening. However, as with everything else, costs have increased for many things and so we have decided to increase subscriptions for the coming season. They will therefore be as follows:

Adult annual subscription: £110 Junior annual subscription: U18 - £55; U15 and under - £45  
Match fees for adult matches will remain at £10 for adults and £5 for juniors

We would stress the importance of money raised via the 100 Club, bar, social events and donations in keeping subscriptions as low as possible and thank you for your support. However, we believe that the club continues to offer the best value for money across all local clubs.

Although the season has not long finished we have already finalised arrangements for post Christmas winter nets.

We have been fortunate to be able to secure Maplestone Noakes School for both our junior and senior net sessions each Friday evening from 23rd February until 22nd March. This will effectively allow us to have a club evening which will bring as many junior and senior players together each week which we hope will be beneficial to all.

- Junior sessions will run from 5.30pm - 7.30pm
- Senior sessions will run from 7.30pm - 9.30pm, with opportunity for a social gathering afterwards.

More details about these sessions will be made available at the start of the new year, but it would be good to get them into your diary now.

### Clubhouse and ground developments

As you will be aware we made many improvements to the environment last winter, upgrading our electricity supply, improving the bar area, installing new kitchen washing and storage, installing a TV and purchasing some new covers.

During the season we have gone further and work has been ongoing to construct a new store, adjacent to the groundsman's shed in which to store our junior kit, bowling machine and other training equipment. This will allow the equipment to be stored, particularly in the winter, in a more weatherproof setting and make it more accessible for junior and senior training. This should be completed in the very near future



Further to our first aid training in January and a couple of incidents in recent years we decided that improved access to a defibrillator would be desirable.

Consequently in partnership with the Offham Village Hall Committee and the Tennis Club we were able to secure a device via a cricket charity.

It has since been installed at the front of the village and is accessible, in an emergency, not only to our players and supporters, but also members of the public who maybe in need of it



We can also report that the square has had its annual end of season repair and refresh process, and the ground team has installed the fences to allow the sheep to arrive once again this winter.

### Club Sponsors

We wish to acknowledge the invaluable support provided by our sponsors throughout the year. Without their help it would be much harder for the club to flourish and be successful. Therefore we would like to thank the following for everything they do for us:

- Maidstone Scaffolding Ltd;
- UK Pool Store Ltd;
- Whiting Group Ltd
- LMR Electrical Services
- Glosrose Group
- Frank's Mussel Bar
- Tecomak Ltd
- Owens Metal Recycling