



## OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Council Newsletter – April 2024

- A new Parish Councillor has been co-opted, Jim Altin. Jim is welcomed onto the Parish Council.



- The Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April was well attended, and was a lively and informative evening. Thanks to everyone who attended, and to the village groups, companies and organisations who were there or who provided displays – including County Councillor Sarah Hohler, Borough Councillors Trudy Dean and Michelle Tatton, PC Dylan McElligott, Parish Councillors, Offham Open House, Offham Society, Neighbourhood Watch, The Tennis Club, Table Tennis Club, Cricket Club, NSPCC, Village Hall Committee, St Michael's Church, The Kings Arms, Gallagher (Blaise Quarry), Infinis (Solar Park), Spadework, May Day Committee, Kentfield Farm, Betts Farm, Orchard Place Farm, Barfield Farm, Offham Primary School PTFA, Speedwatch, Men's Shed and Shedettes.
- Award presentations were made by Cllr Sue Taylor. Nominations for worthy recipients were received from residents, and are to acknowledge and recognise those who make a significant contribution over a considerable period of time to our local community.
- The Kent Association of Local Councils Award was presented to Steve Rickett. Steve is a former Chairman of the Parish Council, an active supporter and resident of Offham. He is a key participant in most village projects such as the Pond, Christmas lights and Parish fund raising.



- Offham Village Community Awards were presented to Angela Unter and Ken Frost



- Warren Boulter was unable to attend, and his Offham Village Community Award will be presented at a later date

### Highways

Kent Highways are carrying out a survey into white lines through the village that need refreshing.



### Speedwatch

Speedwatch sessions are taking place with a rota of accredited volunteers, although a number of sessions have been cancelled due to bad weather. On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 130 vehicles were logged travelling at 3.30pm, with no speeding tickets issued. More sites in the village are being investigated.

If you would like to take part or would like more information, please contact [fred.steer@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:fred.steer@offham-pc.gov.uk).

### Wellbeing

The Shedettes, who meet in the Kings Arms every Tuesday from 10 – 11.30am has been very popular.

### Offham Food Bank Collection Change

Due to timings of collections, which will now be early on Monday mornings, the latest time for donations is **Sunday evenings**.



### Number 70 Bus Service

KCC Financial support for this weekly bus was withdrawn on 12th February 2023. Offham Parish Council agreed to pay its share of the cost to make sure the bus service continues to run for residents. However, since then, Borough Councillor Mike Taylor has been able to secure new funding from KCC to pay for this service for the next year. He has worked closely with Nu Venture.

### Recreation Ground Refurbishment – Phase One

Phase one of the works which cover the Recreation Ground, have now been completed and came in

£37 under budget. The works have been funded by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council from Developer s106 contributions, for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful. There will shortly be a formal opening of the Recreation Ground. The new outdoor sports equipment and extended track are already proving extremely popular, with children and adults!



The works have left stones on the Recreation Ground which need to be cleared. A working party is being held on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 10-12** – please come along and help! Details are later in the newsletter.



### **Funding Approved for Enclosed Play Area in Offham**

Children in Offham, West Malling are set to get an improved play area thanks to a £75,000 grant from FCC Communities Foundation.

The money will be used to buy and install new equipment and safety surfacing in the enclosed Play Area on Teston Road in Offham.

Cllr Sue Taylor, Chairman of Offham Parish Council believes the facility will make a huge difference to the lives of people living in the area.

She says: “This project will provide a real boost to the people of Offham. It’s fantastic that FCC Communities Foundation has awarded us this money and we’re really looking forward to our play area taking shape over the next few months”

FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Richard Smith, FCC Communities Foundation senior grant manager, says: “We’re delighted to be supporting the creation of the new play area project and pleased our funding will provide such a beautiful green space for people across Offham. FCC Communities Foundation is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that make a difference to local communities and we’re really looking forward to seeing this works progress in the coming weeks.”

Cllr Taylor hopes the enclosed play area will be ready to use by summer.

### **Enclosed Play Area**

The news about the grant for the Enclosed Play Area from FCC Communities Foundation is fantastic news for the Village.

A Third Party Contribution of £8,066.60 was made to release this funding. The Parish Council would like to express its gratitude to Offham Open House, Offham May Day and the Jubilee organising committee for their donations, and to villagers who have contributed through the Parish Councils fund raising events making this Third Party Contribution possible.

The grant from FCC Communities Foundation covers 90% of the costs of the work. The Parish Council will pay the balance of £8,037.56.

The Parish Council has instructed the contractor, Eibe, who have installed some of the equipment in the Recreation Ground. It is hoped that work will begin in mid-June and will take around two weeks – meaning the play area will be available for the start of the Summer Holiday. We will keep everyone update with further news and developments.

The Offham Society has launched its new website and you can find the web address URL below to see what is on offer. They hope to keep you updated with forthcoming events and other items of interest - [www.offhamsociety.co.uk](http://www.offhamsociety.co.uk)



### **Dog Mess**

Unfortunately, dog mess is increasingly becoming a problem in the village. Residents and visitors are encouraged to bag up any mess from their dog and use one of the dog litter bins provided.

Councillors are looking into campaigns and initiatives to highlight this problem and encourage owners and dog walkers to be responsible for collecting dog mess.



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

- Offham Parish Council Race Night, with Malling Lions – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – **ticket price now includes a Fish and Chip Supper**
- May Day – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- Offham Society Lazy Sunday Jazz 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Offham Garden Safari – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Shedettes – the Kings Arms, every Tuesday 10am – 11.30am
- 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))

**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) or [@Offham Parish Council](https://www.facebook.com/OffhamParishCouncil) on Facebook for further updates.

### **Offham Parish Council Meetings**

The Annual Parish Council Meeting and next monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

# We Need Your Help!

**Offham Recreation Ground**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**From 10:00 to 12:00**

The Recreation Ground with its new outdoor sports equipment is looking great.

**To make the site safer and easier to maintain we need your help to collect the stones left in the soil and grass just off the new track.**

Please come with friends, family, gloves, rake, bucket, wheelbarrow or anything else you think might help.

**Suitable for all ages.**

**Your Village Needs You!**

**Offham Parish Council**



# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



County Councillor  
Sarah Hohler



Borough Councillors  
Trudy Dean and Michelle Tatton

LJ Betts   
PREMIUM SALADS SINCE 1930



Kentfield Farm



Barfield Farm



Orchard Place Farm



Gallagher



The Kings Arms



Spadework



Village Hall Committee



The Offham Society



St Michaels Church



NSPCC



Offham Open House



Offham Tennis Club



Offham Primary School PTFA



Infnis – Solar Park





## Guided group walks – May 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.

*Mereworth Church – 29 May walk*

**For details of all upcoming walks and walk leaders, see [Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers Facebook page](#) or visit [www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk).**

Thursday 2 May	A leisurely, flat and rural circular walk from Hadlow towards the River Medway and East Lock, going through Barnes Street and Golden Green. Good views of Hadlow Tower and two pillar boxes near the Medway. Three stiles. Mainly field paths, very little road walking, good paths and tracks. May be muddy after rain.	4.5 mile s
Thursday 9 May	Trosley Trot: a fairly flat circular walk along the bottom of the Downs with good views to the south. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 mile s
Sunday 12 May	A varied circular walk from Groombridge through the woods to Harrison's Rocks, across the Spa Valley railway (Toot! Toot!) and returning via Motts Mill. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 mile s
Thursday 16 May	West Peckham wander: pleasant circular walk past the church across the village cricket field and around back to The Swan on the Green. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Thursday 23 May	Darent Valley circular walk from Shoreham village. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Wednesda y 29 May	Circular walk from Mereworth through an attractive part of the Wealdway, climbing through Hurst Wood and returning via West Peckham. We then climb to the top of the Wealden ridge before the return to Mereworth. 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).



**Offham Parish Council**

# **Race Night**

**Supported by Malling Lions Club**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm

At Offham Village Hall

£15 to include fish & chip supper

Bring your own drink and glasses

For tickets please call Sue Williams

07732 267121

All profits will go towards village projects.





## **Snodland Library**

**15-17 High Street, Snodland. ME8 5DA**

**Get Digital!** Whether you need support with using your tablet, the NHS app or just getting online. **We're here to help.**

**Third Tuesday of the month between 10am and 12pm on:**

- 16<sup>th</sup> April
- 21<sup>st</sup> May
- 18<sup>th</sup> June
- 16<sup>th</sup> July
- 20<sup>th</sup> August
- 17<sup>th</sup> September
- 15<sup>th</sup> October
- 19<sup>th</sup> November
- 17<sup>th</sup> December

To book onto a session and find out more, please visit [digitalkent.uk](http://digitalkent.uk) or call **03000 410 950**.



Bus times - services 58 and 70 From 29 August 2023

*Minor changes to bus 58 times from 29 August - now serves PLATT*

**Nu-Venture bus 58 - WROTHAM/BOROUGH GREEN ↔ MAIDSTONE**

Fridays (not Good Friday and not Bank, National or Public Holidays, nor 27 to 31 December)

<i>Nu-Venture bus service number</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>Nu-Venture bus service number</i>	<i>58</i>
Wrotham Square	0930	MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE <i>King St (Boots)</i>	1300
BOROUGH GREEN STATION	0937	Maidstone High St <i>Town Hall</i>	1302
Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	0942	Maidstone West Station	1305
Wrotham Heath <i>Royal Oak</i>	0945	A20 Somerfield Hospital	1311
Addington <i>opp The Green</i>	0950	Aylesford (A20) <i>Sainsbury's</i>	1320
Trottscliffe <i>opp The George</i>	0959	A20 Ditton Corner	1323
Wrotham Heath <i>adj The Vineyard</i>	1004	Larkfield <i>Wealden Hall</i>	1324
Addington <i>opp Jungle Café</i>	1008	East Malling <i>opp King and Queen</i>	1328
Ryarsh <i>opp Duke of Wellington</i>	1013	West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1335
Birling <i>opp Nevill Bull</i>	1016	Leybourne <i>adj The Old Rectory</i>	1341
Leybourne <i>Baywell</i>	1021	Birling <i>adj Nevill Bull</i>	1349
West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1028	Ryarsh <i>adj Duke of Wellington</i>	1351
East Malling <i>King and Queen</i>	1036	A20 Addington <i>Jungle Café</i>	1355
Larkfield <i>opp Wealden Hall</i>	1040	Addington <i>opp The Green</i>	1357
A20 <i>Hall Road opp Sainsbury's</i>	1044	Trottscliffe <i>opp The George</i>	1401
A20 <i>opp Somerfield Hospital</i>	1052	Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	R
MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE <i>King St</i>	1100	BOROUGH GREEN STATION	R
		Wrotham Square	R

Explanation of Codes R = Sets down on request beyond Wrotham Heath

**Nu-Venture bus 70 - WROTHAM/BOROUGH GREEN ↔ EAST/WEST MALLING**

Mondays (not Bank, National or Public Holidays, nor 27 to 31 December)

<i>Nu-Venture bus service number</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Nu-Venture bus service number</i>	<i>70</i>
Wrotham Square	0930	West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1145
BOROUGH GREEN STATION	0937	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	BOROUGH GREEN STATION	1238
West Malling High St <i>Tesco</i>	1032	Wrotham Square	1243

Nu-Venture buses 58 and 70 serve all fixed bus stops on line of route, and on request at any safe point in rural areas and villages. As the bus approaches, please give a clear hand-signal to the bus driver.

Pay on the bus with cash or card. Single and return fares are available for all journeys for adults and for children aged 5th to 16th birthday.

We welcome the English National Concessionary Travel Pass and Kent Travel Saver

Buy or use a DISCOVERY day ticket for unlimited travel on these services and on buses throughout Kent/Sussex.

*Nu-Venture (01622 882288 - www.nu-venture.co.uk) operate buses 58 and 70 with Community Transport funding from Kent County Council, in conjunction with financial support from local Parish Councils.  
This is gratefully acknowledged.*

## UK Power Networks - Temporary Road Closure - Teston Road, Offham - 7th May 2024 (Tonbridge and Malling District)

Due to works planned to be undertaken by **UK Power Networks**, it will be necessary to close part of Teston Road, Offham, from 7th May 2024 with estimated completion by 21st June 2024.

Teston Road, Offham, will be closed outside Mount Cottage. To the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

The alternative route for any through traffic is via B2016 Seven Mile Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road, A228 Malling Road, A228 Ashton Way, King Hill, Teston Road and vice versa.

Pedestrian access will be maintained during the works.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce to allow new electric connection to be carried out, works are undertaken by UK Power Networks.

For the most up to date information on these works please

visit: <https://one.network/?tm=137519786>

For information regarding this closure please contact UK Power Networks on 08000 294 285, who will be able to assist with the scope of these works.

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

