



## OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Council Newsletter – May 2024

- Cllr Sue Taylor was re-elected as Chair Person of the Parish Council and Cllr Sue Williams was re-elected as Vice Chair Person
- The end of year financial reconciliation for 2023-2024 was approved and is included at the end of the newsletter
- County Councillor Hohler's Annual Report is available on the Parish Council website. She has kindly donated £2,500 to the school towards their play area upgrade
- Borough Councillor Tatton attended the meeting and discussed the Local Plan and Parking Charges. The Local Plan will be open to consultation in July. There will be free parking for the first hour in West Malling High Street and Swan Street but cars can park there for up to 4 hours.
- Speedwatch continues to work well with Cllr Fred Steer leading. New volunteers are always needed – [fred.steer@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:fred.steer@offham-pc.gov.uk).
- Cllr Taylor presented to the School Assembly last week
- Blaise Farm IVC plant has been taken over by Envar Composting Ltd
- The Parish Council thanks Gallagher, who have generously agreed to donate a new Notice Board for the Village. This will replace the Notice Board near the Bus Shelter.
- The Parish Council agreed to object to the proposal for a sand quarry to land west of Roughetts Road, Ryarsh – [www.landwestofroughettsroad.co.uk](http://www.landwestofroughettsroad.co.uk).
- Councillors urge dog owners to be responsible, clear up dog mess and use the dog waste bins provided. If the bins are full you can report this to TMBC 01732 844522.
- Phase two of works to upgrade the enclosed play area are due to begin on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

### Race Night with Malling Lions

This was an enormous success – and great thanks to Mike Rowe and the Malling Lions for running such a fun evening. Congratulations to the overall winning jockey – Mike H. Final figures are being put together but there will be a profit of around £1,000 to be used towards Village Projects. A donation of £150 was agreed for Malling Lions to thank them for their hard work. Photos are at the end of the newsletter.

### May Day

Another great May Day – Councillors pass on their congratulations to Jeni S-W and everyone involved in planning.



### Highways

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



It is very good news that Offham Primary School has been selected for a trial zone by Kent Highways and work on the scheme will begin August 31<sup>st</sup>.



### **Speedwatch**

.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).

### **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**.

### **Recreation Ground Refurbishment – Phase One**

There is an official opening of the Recreation Ground new track and out door sports equipment on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. All are welcome to attend.

### **Litter Picking**

Enormous thanks go to those residents who are collecting litter around the village. Everyone is extremely grateful for your hard work – but if you are litter picking please stay safe, visible and don't take risks near the road.



This rubbish was collected by a group working along Teston Road starting at Seven Mile Lane to the gates at Infinis. Nearly 30 wine bottles were collected near White Ladies.

It is the responsibility of TMBC to collect fly tipping. You can report fly tipping:

- Via the TMBC website <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/report-fly-tipping>
- Through the Country Eye App - <https://countryeye.co.uk/>



## **St Michaels Church**

St Michael's annual Village service will be on Sunday 23rd June 2024 at 6pm in St Michael's church with drinks in the churchyard afterwards, as we watch the sun gently set (drinks inside of its wet). Each year we pick a theme and in this an Olympic year, the theme is sport. We hope to involve many sporting activities from the village, from table tennis, tennis, cricket, Sunday football, darts as well as the school. Do come and join St Michael's for this special service



## **Parish Council and Village Events**

- 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 next monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

**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</i> (Boots)	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
Trottiscliffe <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	Trottiscliffe <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](http://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



# HELPING TONBRIDGE & MALLING GET DIGITAL

You could be eligible to access free:

- Gifted 2-in-1 laptop
- Digital skills sessions
- One to one digital support

This is available for **Tonbridge & Malling residents** over the age of 16 and digitally excluded, that meet **one** of the following criteria:

- In or at-risk of financial hardship,
- Not in education, employment or training, or
- Looking to develop skills to support employment or career development.

Full eligibility details and how to apply are available at [www.digitalkent.uk](http://www.digitalkent.uk) or call 03000 410 950.



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a week

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[www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)



# KENT & MEDWAY VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

## FOR CANCER PATIENTS & UNPAID CARERS



### **PRACTICAL SUPPORT**

Trained, DBS-checked volunteers offer practical assistance and companionship at home or transportation to health appointments.



### **INFORMATION & GUIDANCE**

Our experts provide a wide range of useful information and guidance, available in Kent and Medway, for patients and carers.



### **COUNSELLING**

We offer free counselling with a counsellor in training, available for Carers and supporters of a cancer patient

✉ [macmillan@crossroadskent.org](mailto:macmillan@crossroadskent.org)

☎ 03450 956 701

➔  
**DOWNLOAD  
BROCHURE**





**CROSSROADS**  
CARE KENT

in partnership with  
**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT



## ***HIT THE ROADS FOR CROSSROADS***

Be a volunteer driver to  
support cancer patients get to  
their essential healthcare  
appointments



***macmillan@crossroadskent.org***

***03450 956 701***

## CARER'S COUNSELLING

**UP TO 12 WEEKS, FREE  
THERAPEUTIC COUNSELLING FOR  
UNPAID CARERS & SUPPORTERS OF  
CANCER PATIENTS**



Sessions are one to one with a fully supported counsellor-in-training



Available at locations across Kent & Medway, with options also available for online or telephone sessions remotely



Explore your own thoughts and feelings whilst learning strategies to help support you in your caring role



Sessions are held in a safe, confidential environment

***SPEAK TO OUR FRIENDLY TEAM TODAY***

**03450 956 701**  
***counselling@crossroadskent.org***

*Valerie,* on behalf of the Offham Village Hall Management Committee

## **Offham Food Bank**

The collection dates for May are **Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> at 8.00.am.**

As we are delighted to have new donators, it's time for a few updates.

Below is the full list of items always needed, so any of these will be gratefully received.

Before each collection we receive details of depleted stocks which we pass on to you.

Where possible it's best to have 'own brands' as there are more to the pound than branded goods, if you already have any branded then they are always welcome.

Many people have very limited cooking facilities hence the tinned goods which can quickly make a meal.

Donations need to be in plastic bags and if you have any bags for life these are always welcome.

We do not have any signs by the container, we did when we first began but we were told that people - not residents - were seen looking and sometimes taking so it is in an inconspicuous area at the side of the pub.

We are always very grateful to Saffi and Matt for their help with this.

Donations can be placed in there at any time but obviously the nearer to or on the day before collection when possible.

Any questions you might have, please let us know, we are always happy to talk about the Food Bank.

Finally - and most importantly - this could not happen without your kindness and generosity, we and the Food Bank volunteers are always so aware of this as of course are those whose lives your impact on is so immeasurable.

**Tinned baked beans**

**Tinned vegetableS**

**Tinned stewed steak**

**Tinned beef casserole**

**Tinned corned beef**

**Tinned Chicken curry**

**Tinned Fray Bentos pies**

**Tinned salmon**

**Tinned sardines**

**Tinned ravioli**

**Tinned spaghetti bolognese.**

**Tinned lasagne**

**Tinned soup**

**Tinned meatballs**

**Tinned rice pudding**

**Tinned custard**

**Tinned fruit**

**Condiments**

**Sauces**

**Brown sauce**

**Cook in sauces**

**Pasta**

**Rice**

**Tinned potatoes**

**Tinned mixed vegetables**

**Tinned braised steak**

**Tinned ham**

**Tinned beef**

**Tinned Irish stew**

**Tinned tuna**

**Tinned mackerel**

**Tinned pilchards**

**Tinned chilli con carne**

**Tinned spaghetti hoops**

**Tinned hot dogs**

**Tinned meat & vegetables**

**Tinned tomatoes**

**Tinned other milky puddings**

**Other meals in a tin**

**Pots of jelly**

**Tomato ketchup**

**Noodles**

**Jams**

**Biscuits**

**Dried foods**

**Squash**

**Cereals**

**Coffee**

**Teabags (English black)**

**Dog food - dried/tins/pouches**

**Cat food - dried/tins/pouches**

**Kitchen cleaners, & sprays**

**Cif type cream**

**Bathroom cleaners**

**Disinfectant                      Zoflora**

**Glass cleaner**

**Washing up liquid**

**Washing machine conditioner**

**Loo rolls**

**Kitchen towels**

**Shaving products**

**Shampoo**

**Personal hygiene products**

**Toothpaste**

**Body wash**

**Deodorants**

**Woman's toiletries**

**Men's toiletries**

**Woman's sanitary products**

**Femail incontinence pads**

**Nappies**

**Carrier bags**

**Marmalade**

**Non-perishable groceries**

**Dog biscuits & treats**

**Bleach**

**Antiseptic sprays**

**Washing machine detergents**

**Clothes hand wash liquid**

**Hand cream**

**Conditioner**

**Toothbrush**

**Hand wash**

**Male incontinence pads**

## **Transport for the South East wants YOUR views about future transport needs**

Transport for the South East (TfSE), the Sub-national Transport Body for the south east of England, is asking people to take part in their 'Your Voices' survey and submit views on the future transport needs of the region.

People are being asked to take part in the online survey where there are questions about transport-related issues such as accessibility and affordability.

Participants can also share their experiences regarding congestion, noise pollution, air quality, road safety, public transport, personal safety, and walking and cycling routes.

The 'Your Voices' survey can be found online at [tfse.org.uk](https://tfse.org.uk) until Sunday, 2 June 2024.

A special podcast has been produced that explains in further detail why TfSE needs the views of people across the south east and how those views will help shape the future work of TfSE. The podcast can be listened to online at [tfse.org.uk](https://tfse.org.uk) and is also available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify by searching for 'The TfSE Podcast.'

Councillor Keith Glazier, Chair of TfSE, said: "We want to hear the views and experiences of those in the region when it comes to all things transport related. One of our roles is to speak to government about the priorities they should consider when improving transport connectivity locally. To do this effectively, we need to hear from as many people as possible across the south east."

The south east is defined as Bracknell Forest, Reading, Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough, West Berkshire, Wokingham, Kent, Medway, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, and Brighton & Hove.

Transport for the South East (TfSE) is a sub-national transport body bringing together a partnership primarily of 16 local authorities across the region. Our purpose is to determine the investment needed in our transport system to connect people and places and support economic growth across the south east. As well as our local transport authorities we also represent district, borough, town, parish and community councils such as yourself. Kent County Council is the main partner in relation to your area with one of the councillors sitting on our Partnership Board.

I recently joined the organisation and want to put a renewed focus on our engagement with both authorities across the region and the wider public.

We're happy you are already subscribed to our communications, if your individual councillors, residents or anyone else would like to receive this directly you can [sign up at the bottom of our website](#) where you will also find our Privacy Policy.

# North Downs Walk

for Cancer Research UK

Rotary  
Weald of Kent



**SUNDAY 9th JUNE 2024**  
Online Registration now open

[www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk](http://www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk)



A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch and live musical entertainment.

Choice of 1,3,6 and 9 mile routes.

50% of sponsorship money is donated to Cancer Research UK, and the other 50% to your choice of charity or good cause.

An opportunity for your fundraising, with Rotary providing the organisation



All expenses are underwritten by our event sponsor, Family Funeral Service.

Every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041084), and Isle of Man (1188) and Jersey 647.  
Registered address: 2 Redman Place, London E20 1JZ.



## Guided group walks – June 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.  
*Southborough Common – 13 June walk*

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

Sunday 2 June	Lamberhurst Loop - circular walk taking in Cooksbroom Wood, Snagg's Well, Furnace Mill and Owl's Castle Farm. Several short steep ascents and descents, some stiles and lovely views throughout. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 mile s with 3.8 mile s optio n
Thursday 6 June	Circular walk from Penshurst to Leigh. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Sunday 9 June	Circular walk from Borough Green on quiet lanes and footpaths to Basted, Plaxtol Spoute and Dunks Green. Picnic stop at the Kentish Rifleman. Return via Plaxtol and Yopps Green through the orchards. Moderate difficulty. We will be guiding members of London Blind Ramblers along the route. Support from sighted walkers will be greatly appreciated.	7.5 mile s
Thursday 13 June	Circular walk through the woods from Southborough Common to Bidborough with great views north. Then down to Haysden and back. Moderate difficulty with one steady climb.	5 miles
Sunday 16 June	Circular walk below the North Downs from Ryarsh via Trosley Court and along the Pilgrim's Way. Good views to the south. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles

Sunday 23 June	Circular walk from Shoreham to Eynsford with a fairly steep climb up the Otford Hills. Return via the Roman villa, Lullingstone Castle and the country park of Lullingstone. Moderate difficulty.	6.5 mile s
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).		



**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service

**together**

Fire Home Safety Visits - <https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/hfsv>



**Offham Parish Council - End of Financial Year 2023-2024**

Balances held  
 Unity Trust Bank £ 21,897.08

Less: any unrepresented payments at 31 March 2024

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	
			<u>£</u>	
			-	
				<b>21,897.08</b>
<b>Total Receipts for Year</b>				
	TMBC	Precept	25,440.65	
	Unity Trust	Bank Interest	-	
	Various	Other	175.00	
	Various	Rent and Wayleaves	280.68	
	Various	Project Fund raising	6,233.50	
	TMBC	s106 grant funding	25,500.77	
	Inland Revenue	VAT reclaim	<u>5,124.43</u>	
		<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>62,755.03</b>	
<b>Total Payments for Year</b>				
	Clerk/HMRC	Salary, expenses, employment costs	12,586.87	
	Various	Clerk and Cllrs Expenses	143.75	
	KALC	Training	197.00	
	Various	Professional fees & Admin	974.14	
	TMBC	Elections	271.80	
	Various	Consumables and Office Supplies	307.82	
	Village Hall Management Committee	Hire of Hall	326.50	
	Various	Open Spaces	5,708.50	
	Various	Play Area and Recreation Ground	430.00	
	Various	Phase 1 Recreation Ground Works	25,500.77	
	Various	Phase 2 Enclosed Play Area Works	8,066.60	
	Various	Play Area - from Sinking Fund	3,594.50	
	Various	Parish Property	100.00	
	Various	Traffic Calming	9.98	
	Gallagher	Insurance	1,563.90	
	Various	Audit	300.00	
	Church	Churchyard Gardening	1,000.00	
	Various	Village Projects	1,497.51	
	Various	APM	195.30	
	Various	Donations	1,195.49	
	Various	Subscriptions	345.80	
	VAT		<u>6,531.84</u>	
		<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>70,848.07</b>	
<b>Balance carried forward</b>				
		Balance B/F from 2022/23	29,990.12	
		Plus receipts	62,755.03	
		Less Payments	<u>70,848.07</u>	
				<b>21,897.08</b>

# RACE NIGHT

Race night on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April was a huge success. Enjoyed by all who attended with plenty of fun and a fish and chip supper. Plans are being made to repeat the event for the 2025. Many thanks to the Malling Lions for their organisation and management of the event together with Cllr Williams and her helpers.

