



OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Newsletter – April 2025

April 2025 Meeting

- The Parish Council appointed a planning consultant, Alison Eardley. She is also working with West Malling Parish Council and the Kent Association of Local Councils. A questionnaire is being prepared to help us understand what the community wants. This will be hand delivered to houses and will be available at the APM. At the APM there will also be a board so residents can make comments on Post-It Notes. Cllr Taylor is undertaking a lot of the work to help save the Parish Council money.
- Councillors remain concerned about dog fouling, by a very small number of owners who do not clear up after their dogs. Posters are being purchased from Keep Britain Tidy to encourage owners to collect any dog mess.
- Kent Highways will consider installing a “concealed entrance” sign outside the exit of The Wright Event on Teston Road if enough requests are made. If you would like to support this, please log the concealed exit as an issue on the Highways portal - www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem
- **Are you interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?** We have two vacancies. Please contact sue.taylor@offham-pc.gov.uk or clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk for more information.



Working Party – Village Maintenance – 17th May 2025

Cllr Sue Williams is organising a working party to carry out various jobs in the village, including renovating the Gates on the Village Green, cleaning signs etc. More information will be sent out nearer the date.



TMBC – Report from Cllr Michelle Tatton

- Cllrs Dean and Roud are at Cabinet talking about the West Malling Farmers Market petition. They are hoping for solution to allow traders to park for more than 4 hours
- There are changes to the way the Borough Council accesses heritage advice. They did share with Tunbridge Wells, but they have lost their Conservation Officer. A number of Conservation Areas, including Offham, don't have appraisals. There are impacts on the time it takes to make a decision when, for example, a Listed Building application comes in
- New parking standards have come out. These are better than they were before, for example about 2 spaces per house in a new development and garages in rural and semi rural areas will not count towards parking
- Devolution – the Leaders submitted a letter to Government and would not support less than 3 Unitary Authorities or more than 4. The letter included a number of options of how those Unitaries can be arranged. The Kent Leaders are engaging with KALC to see if there are ways to devolve further powers and responsibilities to Parish Councils
- Blast data for Blaise Farm Quarry is available on the KCC website and she will share the link with the Parish Council (see below)



Blast data for Blaise Farm Quarry is available from KCC using the link below. You scroll down to the end for the latest data which

currently goes to mid-March. At the top is a link to guidance on blasting which provides some helpful information :

<https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/BLAST%20MONITORING%20RESULTS%20BLAISE%20FARM%20QUARRY>

Offham Solar Park

Painting of the fence at the site entrance on Teston Road will take place soon. Final work is underway and the power will go on 15th April. The Solar Park should be fully operational within the next few months.



Quintain Repairs and Maintenance

3 Specialist companies have tendered to carry out the work to the Quintain. Work cannot begin until Planning Permission is granted. When work begins, the Quintain will need to be removed for up to 4 weeks. We will notify residents before this happens.

South East Water

If you want to register for alerts and updates, which were provided during the recent water supply problems, please log on to <https://aqualerter.southeastwater.co.uk/>

Police

Between 22nd March and 25th March, multiple aluminium irrigation pipes were stolen from a farm in Church Road.

East Malling Centre Community Pantry – Formerly Food Bank

The Centre would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their donations this week. Your generosity has been especially important in restocking empty shelves.

For over five years, your support has helped sustain the Food Bank, during which time the number of people in need has risen significantly. While providing food remains the top priority, the organization has expanded to meet other essential needs as well.

As a result, the Food Bank has now been renamed the **East Malling Centre Community Pantry**, and our emails will now be titled **THE PANTRY**.

Currently, any items from the usual donation list are greatly appreciated. We will update you soon with urgent needs, as well as some news and a special invitation....

Valerie, on behalf of The Offham Village Hall Management Committee



Parish Council and Village Events

- KCC - Election of County Councillors 1st May 2025
- Offham May Day – 3rd May 2025
- Annual Parish Meeting – Offham Village Hall 9th May 2025
- Offham Society Lazy Jazz in Cosgrave Field – 13th July 2025

- 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)

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

Offham Parish Council Meetings: The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 6th May 2025 and will include the Annual Parish Council Meeting**

NATIONAL EMERGENCY AREA RETROFIT PROGRAMME

Balfour Beatty

Build to Last
Lean. Expert. Trusted. Safe.

In case you missed it, we’ve produced our final newsletter to update you on our National Emergency Area Retrofit programme. This newsletter includes photos and updates to show our progress on the National Emergency Retrofit programme, and a snapshot of our work to support local communities.



[National Emergency Area Retrofit Programme Update -
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/SbbDs4dhZyo0E9Yb?ref=email](https://sway.cloud.microsoft/SbbDs4dhZyo0E9Yb?ref=email)

Work is complete!



We have been working with a number of community groups and are delighted to bring this event to Tonbridge Castle on Sunday 4th May.

Our VE Day celebrations will host a number of 1940s themed stalls and entertainment opening at 10:00 and finishing at 16:00. We bring to you a VE Day Story: Discover how a civilian wakes up with his family to find out that VE Day has finally arrived. The story is around the lead up to the day, all the anticipation, and the news leading up to the day, and then what it was like to live through those 2 days.

You will also be able to get involved with our Swing dance group who will be providing an amazing display of swing along with offering swing dance lessons.

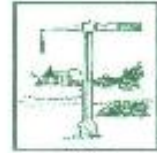
On top of this and throughout the day there is live music provided by the 17th Tonbridge Scout and Guide Band as well as West Kent Big Band making a special visit to Tonbridge for this memorable occasion. If you'd like to delve into a little history there will be a 1940's Fire station and vehicles to look around as well as Tonbridge Art Group providing a craft corner and Oast Theatre providing authentic dressing up display.

We hope that you will not only share the event with friends and family but are able to join us on the day. In addition to the more celebratory event, we will also be lighting a Beacon within the Castle grounds on the 8th May with a small service from 8.30pm, with the Beacon lighting at 9.30pm

<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/events/event/238/80th-anniversary-ve-day-celebration>

<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/events/event/239/ve-day-beacon-lighting>

Kind regards,
Tonbridge & Malling B.C. Events Team



**Friday May 9th 2025
Commences 7.30pm**

All residents are invited

To

OFFHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
At
OFFHAM VILLAGE HALL

This is an annual meeting run by the Parish Council

Come and find out more about what's happening in our Village
Meet Offham Parish Councillors and representatives from various organisations and local companies

"Offham Village Meet & Greet Event"

There will be a formal introduction and awards presentation, followed by an informal evening of Village groups, clubs and local organisations who will be available to give our community information about themselves and their activities

Please note this is a Village Meeting and not the Parish Council AGM



Clerk to Offham Parish Council Tel: 07563 606573
Email clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk Website: www.offham-pc.gov.uk



Offham Parish Council



- Parish Councils are the closest tier of local government to the community.
- Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month (except August) in the Committee Room of Offham Village Hall at 7.30pm. Meetings are open to the public and you are very welcome to attend. The Agenda is posted on the website and Notice Boards
- Offham Parish Council has 7 councillors, and 1 employee (the Clerk). Cllr Sue Taylor is Chair and Cllr Sue Williams is Vice-Chair
- The Parish Council responds to the needs of the community. To do this we need to hear from you about local issues, so please keep in touch
- Councillors help look after The Village Green, Quintain, The Pound, Cosgrave Field, Recreation Ground, Play Area, The Book Box, Defibrillator and Speedwatch. Councillors liaise with TMBC, KCC, Highways and local groups and organisations
- Fund raising events help raise money for village projects that the Parish Council undertakes
- We send out a monthly newsletter by email. Contact the Clerk to be added to the email list



 clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk

 sue.taylor@offham-pc.gov.uk

 www.offham-pc.gov.uk





Gardening Tools Event

To be held at



On

Saturday 19th April 2025

10.30 to 13.30

Get your Garden Tools ready for Spring at our Garden Tool Sharpening & Repair event and visit a local sustainable food education charity.

CommuniGrow Centre, Park Farm, East Malling/Ditton,
ME20 6PE

Access via Bradbourne Lane, Ditton
What3Words ///recap.stand.producers

More information at

www.mallingrepaircafe.co.uk

www.communiGrow.org.uk

NOTICE OF ELECTION AGENTS' NAMES AND OFFICES

**Kent County Council
Election of a County Councillor for
Malling North**

on Thursday 1 May 2025

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the names of election agents of the candidates at this election, and the addresses of the offices or places of such election agents to which all claims, notices, writs, summons and other documents addressed to them may be sent, have respectively been declared in writing to me as follows:

Name of Election Agent	Correspondence address	Name of Candidate
MOBBS Thomas Neil William	Suite 2, Paddock Wood Business Centre, Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6EN	BETTS Robin Patrick
WINTERBOTTOM Kimberly Anne	5 St James Close, East Malling, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6RZ	BROADLEY Matt
HICKMOTT Paul Michael	5 Pout Road, Snodland, Kent, ME8 5EX	HICKMOTT Paul Michael
THORNEWELL David	40 Betjeman Close, Larkfield, Aylesford, ME20 8TQ	O'SHEA Kate
SIAN Paramjit Singh	45 Fenners Marsh, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2JG	SIAN Dodger

Dated: Thursday 3 April 2025

Damian Roberts
Deputy Returning Officer

Printed and Published by Damian Roberts Deputy Returning Officer Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Gibson Building Gibson Drive Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4LZ

STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED

**Kent County Council
Election of County Councillor**

The following is a statement of persons nominated for election as a County Councillor for
Malling North

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)	Reason why no longer nominated*
BETTS, Robin Patrick	Flat at Winterdale Shaw, 20 Platt House Lane, Wrotham, Sevenoaks, TN15 7LX	Conservative Party Candidate	
BROADLEY, Matt	(address in Medway)	The Green Party	
HICKMOTT, Paul Michael	5 Pout Road, Snodland, Kent, ME8 5EX	Labour Party	
O'SHEA, Kate	15 Dobson Close, Leybourne, ME19 5SQ	Liberal Democrat	
SIAN, Dodger	(address in Gravesham)	Reform UK	

*Decision of the Deputy Returning Officer that the nomination is invalid or other reason why a person nominated no longer stands nominated.

The persons above against whose name no entry is made in the last column have been and stand validly nominated.

In England, if a candidate has requested not to make their home address public, the relevant electoral area in which their home address is situated (or the country if their address is outside the UK) will be provided.

A POLL WILL BE TAKEN between the hours of 7:00am and 10:00pm on Thursday, 1st May 2025

Dated: Thursday 3 April 2025

Damian Roberts
Deputy Returning Officer

Printed and Published by the Deputy Returning Officer, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4LZ

UK Power Networks - Temporary Road Closure - Aldon Lane, Offham - 12th May 2025 (Tonbridge and Malling District)

Due to works planned to be undertaken by **UK Power Networks**, it will be necessary to close part of Aldon Lane, Offham, from 12th May 2025 with estimated completion by 12th May 2025.

Aldon Lane, 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 Aldon Lane, A20 London Road, Town Hill, High Street, St Leonards Street, Teston Road, Aldon Lane and vice versa.

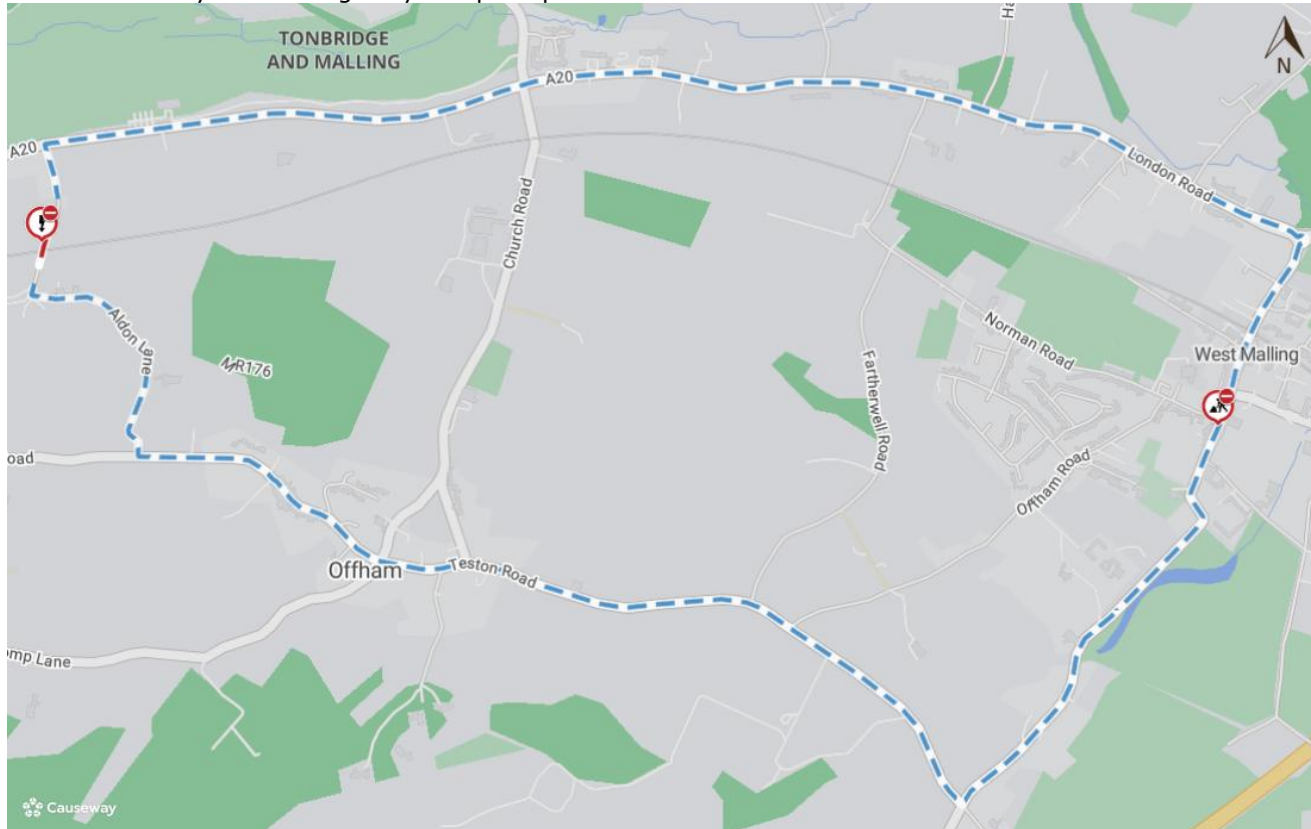
Pedestrian access will be maintained during the works.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce to allow overhead cabling works 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=142346495>

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



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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 Monday-Friday)
03000 419191 (all other times)



For every Parkinson's journey

If you are living with Parkinson's or know someone who is...

We are here so that no-one has to face Parkinson's alone. Speak to your Parkinson's Local Adviser.

Rosalind Kent on 0344 225 3793 or by email at rkent@parkinsons.org.uk



Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A registered charity in England and Wales (259197) and in Scotland (SC097554).



We are pleased to let you know that our programme to install additional emergency areas on our all lane running motorways is now complete. Traffic management for this work has been lifted.

We appreciate your patience whilst we have carried out this important work. This is our final newsletter update.



[National Emergency Area Retrofit Programme Update](#)

Work is complete!



The Police and Crime Commissioner must produce a Police and Crime Plan that sets out his vision and priorities for policing and community safety, as well as the objectives and ambitions that Kent Police will be held to account on.

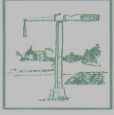
The Plan is called Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust. You can read and print out copies of the plan, by clicking on this link: <https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/plan-annualreports-hmic/cut-crime-support-victims-build-trust-finalversion.pdf>



Council Services



Council Services	County Council	Borough / City / District Council
Education	✓	
Environmental Health		✓
Highways	✓	
Housing		✓
Leisure & Recreation		✓
Libraries	✓	
Local Taxation Collection		✓
Passenger Transport	✓	
Planning Applications		✓
Social Care	✓	
Strategic Planning	✓	
Transport Planning	✓	
Waste Collection		✓
Waste Disposal	✓	



16th April 2025



Dear resident

Offham Quintain- Fund Raising Project

Offham Parish Council is part of an active village community, with a number of projects underway. The main project is to carry out much needed maintenance work to the Quintain which is situated on the Village Green, to ensure it is carefully preserved and protected.

The Parish Council is working closely with Offham resident James Miller MA CEng FICE FStructE, a Conservation Accredited Engineer. He is leading the project, dealing with planning permission and has obtained tenders from specialist contractors. Papers relating to the planning application to restore the Quintain are publicly available on the TMBC planning website.

A Quintain is a post and cross-piece set up as a mark for titling with a lance, originally used in medieval times as a military exercise, but then taken up for sport. The Offham Quintain is a Grade II listed structure, being first listed in 1952, not long after the listing system was introduced. It is said that the Quintain is the last surviving Quintain in England to be located in its original position, and this is inscribed on the stone information panel. This makes Offham unique.

The Quintain is a much-loved symbol of Offham, appearing on the village sign and being depicted on the local primary school uniform.

Work on the Quintain is needed to repair some serious decay and erosion, together with peeling paintwork and a damaged plinth. Costs are likely to be in the region of £7,500 +VAT and fund raising is underway to cover these costs.

If you are interested in making a donation towards the project, please contact Cllr Sue Taylor, Chair of the Parish Council , who will be happy to discuss this with you and answer any questions you may have (sue.taylor@offham-pc.gov.uk). The Parish Council will consider ways to thank major individual contributors.

Kind regards

Sue Taylor

Sue Taylor
Offham Parish Council Chair



Cllr Sue Taylor, Chair
Chair



Cllr Sue Williams
Vice Chair



Cllr Phil Bailey



Cllr Adrian Marchant



Cllr Fred Steer