



OXTED PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

March 2014

A Message from the Chairman

This is the first newsletter that Oxted Parish Council has produced. I hope you find the information it contains useful and helps to inform you as to what we are responsible for in the Oxted area. If you do have any queries at all, please do contact us.

Oxted Parish Council has been in existence for well over 100 years and is comprised of twelve councillors, six elected from Oxted North and six from Oxted South. Each Councillor is elected to serve for a four year term.

Among other things, the Parish Council owns and is responsible for the running of the burial ground for which the Clerk has statutory responsibilities to keep proper records. The Parish Council is a consultee in respect of planning applications for the Oxted area. The Planning Committee meets every three weeks and members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Parish Councillors are always there to help. Even if the Parish Council does not deal with items of concern, we can hopefully guide you to who does.

Karen Weightman - Chairman

Burial Ground

A teak bench has been installed around a tree by the Garden of Remembrance. Sections of the bench are available for relatives to sponsor in memory of a loved one and a suitable plaque attached after communication with the Clerk



Boughs Down

This Winters' storms touched the Parish Council's burial ground too. This quiet place of remembrance, tucked away behind Oxted's parish church, had some of its trees 'trimmed' by Mother Nature's awesome power.

The willow tree near the entrance was stripped of a large branch and now looks somewhat lop-sided. We are assured it will recover.

Another very large bough was broken off one of the fir trees halfway along the access road blocking it off completely. As the burial ground has to be ready at all times for visitors and funerals, this hazard had to be removed quickly. Unfortunately, the burial ground contractor's operatives, who would usually clear it away following instructions from the Clerk, were on holiday over Christmas and New Year. Fortunately, the Parish back-up tree contractor was able to help despite the huge demands it was under at the time.

Such unplanned expenditure 'blows' the burial ground committee's budget. As a result the planned projects might have to wait as the expenditure on the day to day maintenance and upkeep is currently outstripping income. **David Weightman**



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2013 continues to be commemorated by several "installations" around Oxted organized by the Parish Council:-

- three public benches, two on Hurst Green common and one near the bus stop in Silkham Road
- hundreds of daffodil and narcissus bulbs planted by the parish councillors around the new Hurst Green village sign will add colour to the common every spring
- a new inclusive piece of children's play equipment (known as a Fun Ball Game) has been installed near the Mill Lane playground. A second one in more muted colours is likely to be installed in Master Park.



Be a Good Neighbour

- Check in on elderly neighbours
 - Keep an eye on growth of trees and hedges
 - Report empty grit bins and potholes
 - Say no to cold callers
 - Report graffiti
-

Grant Aid Donations Made in 2013 to

*Oxted Guide Hut
Age Concern Oxted, Limpsfield & District
St Mary's Oxted Parochial Church Council
St Catherine's Hospice
Oxted Young Persons Theatre
Oxted Citizens' Advice Bureau
Matthew's Friends*

Annual Parish Assembly

This year's Annual Parish Assembly

will be held on

Monday 7th April 2014 at

Oxted Community Hall.

Starting at 7:30pm for 8pm.

Guest Speaker

Kevin Hurley

(Police and Crime

Commissioner for Surrey)

Will be happy to answer your questions.

Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.

The Parish Council is there for the benefit of the residents of Oxted so input from local residents is very important.

Write to us, email us or attend our Parish meetings, held in Oxted Community Hall on the 2nd Tuesday bi-monthly. If there are local projects that require help with funding, contact the Clerk as we may be able to help.

The Planning Committee meets every three weeks to consider applications, where upon our views and comments are sent to TDC. Although recent changes in the law have made it easier for householders to modify or add extra space to their homes, the planning committee of OPC are passionate in their support and consider it our duty to protect the Green Belt for the benefit of our community and our future generation.

***Oxted Parish Council Clerk:
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What does a Parish Council do?

A Parish Council is the first level of local government and, as such, has limited powers and financial resources. Parishes levy the smallest proportion of residents' council tax bills. Currently Oxted Parish Council's precept (income) is £28,000 which works out as £5.67 a year out of a total band D household's bill of £1,601.13 which is the 2nd lowest of the 22 parishes in Tandridge District.

Come and meet your Parish Councillors



Denize Wallace



David Weightman



Karen Weightman



Paul Whitehurst



Barbara Harling



Robert Wingate



Terry Dillon



Stuart Paterson



Liz Parker



Sue Hayward



Martin Fisher



Stephen Blunden

www.oxtedpc.org.uk