



# OXTED PARISH COUNCIL

[www.oxted-pc.org.uk](http://www.oxted-pc.org.uk)

*April 2015*

## ***A Message from the Chairman***

Thank you all for your positive responses to Oxted Parish Council's first newsletter published in March 2014. As a result, I am pleased to be writing to you again in 2015.

It is again hoped to explain what Oxted Parish Council is responsible for. If you are in doubt, please do come to our Annual Parish Assembly, details of which are given in this Newsletter.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and healthy 2015.

***Karen Weightman - Chairman***



Tandridge District Council Chairman Cllr Liz Parker and the Oxted Parish Council Councillors on the curvy seat funded by the Parish Council at the skateboard park in Hurst Green



## ***Grant Aid***

In May 2014 we held our usual Grant Aid meeting. Local charities and organizations are encouraged to apply for such Grants by 1<sup>st</sup> May each year. This year we had eleven applications.

Our total budget for 2014 was £4,000 – the total amount applied for was £7,846.

Ten applications successfully received grants but not all received the amount they had hoped for. Grant Aid donations were made in 2014 to:

- **The Orpheus Centre**
- **Art & Gardening Project**
- **Age Concern Oxted, Limpsfield & District**
- **St Mary's Parochial Church Council**
- **St Catherine's Hospice**
- **Oxted Young Persons Theatre**
- **The Woodhouse Centre**
- **Oxted Citizens Advice Bureau**
- **Matthew's Friends**
- **The Bluehouse Festival 2014**  
(Human Zoo Theatre Company)

***Karen Weightman***



# What will motivate you to volunteer?

to be  
part of  
something

to  
help my  
career

to give  
back

to help  
people

to work  
with  
people

for my  
community

**Help someone find their strength**

**[www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)**

Registered charity number: 298028

Registered address: Victim Support, Hallam House,  
56-60 Hallam Street, London W1W 6JL

**Victim Support is here to help anyone affected by crime.**

Our volunteers in Surrey help people traumatised by crime to move on with their lives. You can help by supporting victims face-to-face, as a fundraiser or in lots of other ways. We pay your expenses and give you free training. You don't need qualifications or previous experience of this kind of work to volunteer for Victim Support. All you need is the willingness to help and a little time. We welcome volunteers from every walk of life and from every community.

**For more information contact:**

**Jo Wills on 01273 456151 or email**

**[SurreyVolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:SurreyVolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk)**

## Illegal tobacco, a drag on our communities

Surrey Crimestoppers, the local branch of the independent crime fighting charity, has today launched an illegal tobacco campaign with Surrey County Council Trading Standards and the Smokefree Surrey Alliance. Targeting counterfeit, smuggled and bootlegged tobacco, the aim will be to gather intelligence about manufacturers and suppliers of illegal tobacco, identify links to Serious Organised Crime and raise awareness of the dangers and risks to person and property.

The handling of illegal tobacco is considered by many to be a relatively minor offence; however it is organised criminal activity that brings this tobacco into Surrey. Criminals sell to local dealers who then sell to the vulnerable such as school children at pocket money prices who get hooked on the uncontrolled nicotine content or people trying to quit who are attracted by the low prices.

All tobacco is harmful but easy access to cheap tobacco increases the health risks because it encourages people to keep smoking and smoke more. Illegal cigarettes can pose a more serious risk to health as often there are no controls on the content or quality of these products. Tests have shown they can contain, dust, asbestos and animal faeces such as rat droppings and horse manure.

If you think you know where the tobacco is being sold, stored or made, call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or go online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). Contacting the charity is completely anonymous, calls are not recorded, IP addresses are untraceable and no one will ever know it was you who called, not even Crimestoppers.

**ILLEGAL TOBACCO**

**IS A DRAG ON OUR COMMUNITY**

**ALLOWING THE SALE OF DODGY FAGS FUNDS MORE THAN JUST A HABIT**

- It is not a victimless crime
- It encourages 'playground' smokers and exposes our kids to criminals
- It puts our health at risk
- It brings low-level and serious organised crime into our community

**FIGHT FOR A CLEANER COMMUNITY**

Call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 with your information on illegal tobacco sales.

To find out how to spot a fake and put a stop to illegal tobacco go to [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/fakefags](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/fakefags)

**Surrey CRIMESTOPPERS**  
0800 555 111  
Call anonymously with information about crime

Crimestoppers is an independent registered charity [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)



## Potholes

**Potholes are, understandably, one of the things that the Parish Council gets a lot of comment about.**

These are not the responsibility of the Parish Council or indeed Tandridge District Council. It is the responsibility of Surrey County Council, Highways department. Whenever I see a problem, or get told of one (having gone and had a look), I pass them on to our County Councillor, Nick Skellett, by email. I pass it on in this way so it is easy for him to pass it on to the officers concerned.

There is a need to be very specific about the location so they can be found. If the repair fulfils the category for 'immediate' action, I keep them under review and report them again until they do get done. Do let me know if you have a pothole problem and see if my system works.

**David Weightman**

## Be a Good Neighbour

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

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

**This year's Annual Parish Assembly is being held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at York Rooms, St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green, starting at 7:30pm for 8pm.**

Guest speakers **ROB LUCK**  
*Recycling Officer Waste Management, TDC*  
and **JANET GARDINER**  
& **EMMA MORTLOCK**  
*Crossroads Care Surrey*

All will be happy to answer your questions.

**Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting**

## Burial Ground

Understandably, if there are free car parking spaces to be had and near to the station, they will be filled. This is particularly the case on the roadway round to the Oxted Parish Council Burial Ground behind St Mary's Church.

I imagine there is a bit of competition here for spaces on a weekday morning. Yellow lines have been kindly provided by Surrey County Council, Highways Department in the entrance and the Parish Council have provided posts to be put in to keep cars off the grass.

Nevertheless, cars still bump-up onto the kerb and often come very close to causing an obstruction as it is often very hard to get past. If we cannot get past it is reported to the police.

The Parish Council is having continuing discussions with Highways to see what can be done to finally overcome this problem where the road is slightly narrower. I would rather not be the one taking a funeral when a hearse cannot get into the burial ground for parked cars and have to deal with the additional distress this would cause grieving families.

**David Weightman**

**The Planning Committee meets every three weeks to consider applications, where upon our views and comments are sent to Tandridge District Council.**

Although recent changes in the law has 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 generations.

**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 second Tuesday bi-monthly. If there are local projects that require help with funding contact the Clerk as we may be able to help.

**Oxted Parish Council Clerk:**  
**Mrs Maureen Gibbins, Salmons,**  
**Salmons Lane, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0HB**  
**Tel: 07510 226989**  
**Email: oxtedpc@btconnect.com**

## Sign up for extra support during a power cut

Need extra support during a power cut or know someone else (maybe a relative, neighbour, patient, or friend) that would need extra support during a power cut? You may be entitled to free extra support from UK Power Networks.

### Who can sign up?

You need to live in London, the South East of England or the East of England (**type in your postcode online to check that you live in an area where UK Power Networks own and maintain the electricity cables that deliver electricity**). If you live in UK Power Networks area then the following can apply:

- Customers who are dependent on medical equipment
- Customers who are chronically ill
- Customers with a disability
- Customers who are visually impaired or blind
- Customers who are hearing impaired or deaf
- Elderly customers
- A nursing or residential home
- Customers with young babies in household
- Other cases will be considered too so please get in touch

### How to apply

- **Sign up now online**
- Email [psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk](mailto:psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk)
- Call 0800 31 63 105 or 0333 32 32 105 from a mobile
- **Download an application to print off**
- Priority Services Coordinator, UK Power Networks, Fore Hamlet, Ipswich, IP3 8A

### Who are UK Power Networks?

UK Power Networks own and maintain electricity cables and lines across London, the South East and East of England making sure your lights stay on. You don't pay your electricity bills to UK Power Networks. Your electricity supplier is the company you choose to buy your electricity from, and who you pay your bills to.

## Elections: 7 May 2015

**The Parish, District and General elections are being held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Please remember to vote.**

## Notice Boards

The Parish Notice Boards are for use by Voluntary Organisations or for Cultural, Recreational and Entertainment events in the Parish of Oxted. Special events of national importance, provided they are non-political are also permitted. Commercial or personal advertisements are not permitted.

## What does a Parish Council do?

A Parish Council is the most junior level of local government and, as such, has limited powers and financial resources. Parishes also levy the smallest proportion of resident's council tax bill. Currently Oxted Parish Council's precept (income) is £28,000 which works out as £5.90 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.

## Time for sugar swaps

### Change4Life is back to help kids cut back on sugar

**Did you know that there are seven sugar cubes in a can of fizzy pop? From sugary cereals to after school snacks and puddings in the evening, it's surprising just how much sugar there is in some of the food and drinks we give children every day.**

This can damage their health because sugar means extra calories which cause fat to build up and this can lead to heart disease, some cancers and type 2 diabetes. Don't forget that eating too much sugar can also cause tooth decay.

To help you and your kids cut back on sugar all you need to do is sign up to Change4Life Sugar Swaps to find out about healthy alternatives. There are loads of great ideas to help you throughout the day:

- **Breakfast swap** – some cereals are full of sugar so why don't you try out some healthier alternatives such as porridge. You can add some chopped banana to make it the perfect start to the day for you and your children.
- **Drinks swap** – swap those cans of fizzy pop for sugar-free drinks, water or lower-fat milk.
- **After school snack swap** – replace chocolate, cake and crisps with carrot sticks or unsalted nuts to keep the kids going through until dinner time.
- **Pudding swap** – you can still enjoy a treat in the evening by making a healthy blackberry and apple crunch with some oats and low fat yoghurt. There are lots more tasty pudding recipes on the Change4Life website.

**To find out about more ways to reduce your family's sugary intake and receive your FREE pack full of tips and money off vouchers, visit the Healthy Surrey website.**