

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE OUTWOOD PARISH MEETING 2005

This meeting had three main items - the Chairman's Report, a talk by George Beach on Outwood Cricket Club and a presentation by Marcus Dode on "Buses4U".

The Chairman informed parishioners that members of the Parish Council have a duty and a responsibility to be involved and concerned with any matter that is of interest to the village and that during the past year we have remained within the budget, still operating at the same figure that was given to us by Tandridge District Council five years ago.

Donations have been given to the Outwood News and to the parish church towards the upkeep of the churchyard. They were £250 and £500 respectively.

The Parish Boundary changes that were approved by T.D.C. last year and which were submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have not yet been implemented and there could be a delay as there is a backlog of changes. Whatever the result of the general election the changes will still be made - so be patient!

The Dayseys Hill project is still very much alive - kerb stones will soon be in place along the roadside next to the Dayseys Hill project, from the existing ones up to the "Dog and Duck", and two signs will be erected at each end of the sward stating "*Outwood Parish Council. Please do not mow*" enabling the wild flower planting to flower and seed in safety!

The services of the Burstow Handyman will be continuing this year and he will litter pick as in the past. This has been much appreciated by villagers.

The response to the Rural Housing Trust's questionnaire was very encouraging. The next step is to submit to the Trust some possible sites and villagers are encouraged to give their suggestions. The Trust will do the negotiating.

Millers Lane is due for a resurfacing programme during this financial year but no dates have been set so far.

The Chairman paid a well-deserved tribute to David West, the Parish Clerk, who uses his family's long experience in local politics to good effect.

Finally the Chairman, Geoff Last, announced his retirement from the Parish Council after five sterling years of commitment and service. He was warmly thanked by the Vice-Chairman on behalf of the village.

There were a good number of questions following this report including a number of ideas on how to spend the excess money in the bank account!

George Beach followed with a talk on Outwood Cricket Club which is over a hundred years old and whose elderly pavilion is in need of substantial renovation due to serious subsidence caused by the hot summer of 2003. The cost will be mostly covered by insurance and a new pavilion is not out of the question if renovation of the old one does not prove to be cost-effective. He then told us of the exciting new "Cricket Academy" which has been formed for local youngsters under the guidance of a professional coach and started with a very successful open day a few weeks ago.

Delicious food and a welcome glass of wine were then followed by a presentation by Marcus Dode on "Buses4U". Marcus used to work for East Sussex Council and set up their very successful "on demand" bus service. He was invited by Tandridge District Council to do the same for them and the result is the "Buses4U" service. There is no fixed timetable.

The route is determined by the would-be passengers. The service is open to anyone who lives in the Tandridge district. There is no age limit and it is fully accessible for those with a mobility difficulty by means of either a passenger ramp or a lift.

To use the service you simply call the "Buses4U" Travel Centre to book your journey and a mutually convenient boarding and alighting point will be agreed. It costs £1 for a single journey of up to 4 miles, over 4 miles is £2 and over 14 miles is £3. Children under 16 are half price whilst those under 5 go free. Concessionary bus passes are accepted.

The service is available daily between 09.00 and 15.30 and then again between 16.30 and 23.00 on schooldays. On Saturdays, bank holidays and during the school holidays the service can be booked from 08.00 until 23.00. On Sundays you can travel between 09.00 and 17.00. There is also a Sunday Rambler service which links with trains from Oxted station on an hourly basis and runs a circular route into Kent taking in places of interest such as Hever Castle and various National Trust properties as well as local beauty spots and pubs!

Telephone **01730 815518**, text **07714 854082** or e-mail **buses4u@tandridge.gov.uk** to book your journey.

There is also a website - **www.buses4u.org.uk** for those who can go "on-line".

Marcus was thanked by the Chairman and the project wished every success.

*Geoffrey R. Last  
Chairman  
Outwood Parish Council*

*Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2005.*