Report from Environment Committee Meeting 8th May 2012 held in School House, Otford.

Present: Mary Evans, Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh and Elizabeth Ward (Chair.

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed.

Oxenhill Woods: The site is extremely wet due to the current weather. It is hoped the afternoon of Saturday 26th May will be fine for the Nature Event. Contact has been made with Kent Wildlife Centre to see if we might borrow some frames to assist with doing some bug hunts. Mary Evans has volunteered to organise a ‘Nature/Treasure Hunt’. Leaf and bark rubbing will be organised together with wild flower and tree recognition. Jonathan Webb has volunteered to take a party/s to explain woodland management. Maybe if the weather is kind folk may wish to bring a picnic. Information will be available about the Planet Walk to be held on Saturday 2nd June (one of our Jubilee Celebration activities). Posters are being prepared for display around the village and will be given to Otford and Russell House Schools and contact made to Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts. A Risk Assessment is being prepared. A Qualified First Aider will be available. Charmian will assist with transportation of equipment to the area. Mary Evans advised that a tree had fallen near the bridge into the small meadow next to the M26. Ray Froud will be advised.

Chalkpit: Parish Clerk to contact KALC r.e whether a good or bad thing to display a notice/s about the broken glass (remaining from an early 20th century landfill site) that is in the wooded area bordering the boundary with Tudor Drive. This particular part is a haven for wildlife.

Scout Hut Area: Is an eyesore, gives a very bad impression to visitors coming from the station or using the footpath. It is appreciated that vandalism and graffiti have been a real nuisance, but surely this does not convey a good impression of 21st century scouting. The gutter on the footpath side of the hut is a mini garden! Suggest an outdoor activity to assist with drastically tidying the site. It should not be left to the Group Scout Master. Maybe SDC should be asked to write a letter.

Pilgrims’ Way East: Litter is a continuing problem from ‘Gullivers’ to Tudor Drive, the above ladies will take it in turns to weekly, or more frequently if time allows pick up the debris. If it remains it will encourage more to be dropped. This action will be for a trial period to see if it has any effect.

Recreation Ground: The grass has just been cut and looked superb. We shall be holding a 3 day ‘Poo Event’ on 12th 13th 14th June and hope to involve volunteers, Sports Clubs, Parents and the Village School to help with ‘flagging’ the locations. Advice is being sought from other areas where this activity has taken place.

A long discussion took place over the siting of the Jubilee Beacon. It was decided that our proposal would be a fenced off area of the required size bordering the northern side of the cricket square. The Parish Tennis Court was also suggested but it was felt that this was on lower ground, but there was an advantage of existing fencing and the Community Choir may have the advantage of the floodlighting.

Telston Park: Has been enhanced by the planting of numerous daffodil bulbs, there blooms giving pleasure to those who walk through the area.

Hale Lane Rec: The offer of free trees for the western boundary was discussed. It was felt that no more than 6 should be planted in the new hedge as more could in the future clutter the lovely long distance view of the slopes of Polhill.

NewPlanters: The Historical Society Committee wish to donate an amount from the Society’s funds for one planter. The Fete Committee has also been approached.
Tarmac have responded to our request sending a cheque for £500. A letter of thanks has been sent. Harrods Horticultural at Lowestoft has been contacted to supply for the entrance to the car Park and others will be ordered when further funding is to hand. Hopefully some planting can be done for the Jubilee but red, white and blue flowers will show later.

**Tarmac Liaison Meeting** on 17th April was attended by Elizabeth Ward and minutes have been received.

**Correspondence:**
Email from LDF at SDC details of courses arranged by Kent Wildlife for Management of Small Woodlands, 16th May, at Sandling, Maidstone and Bredhurst Woods Chalk Grassland 12th June, at Kemsing Nature Reserve, and Small Pastures, at Tyland Barn on 27th June.
‘Wild Kent’ magazine Spring 2012
Tree Report for Otford from Brian Thomas.
Minutes of Sevenoaks Quarry Liaison Meeting 17th April (Tarmac)
Email from SDC ‘Trees to Treasure Project’ NW Kent Countryside Partnership.
‘Fieldwork’ magazine Spring 2012.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday July 10th at 8.30 am in School House.