

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2006

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) is a registered non-profit society with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of its members to local government. OPSRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 325. Any resident or property owner in Shirley and Otter Point is eligible for membership.

Lifetime memberships are \$5.00 and are available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) for further information.

The purpose of our society is to:

- ◆ Ensure that the development of the two communities of Shirley and Otter Point takes place in an orderly way and in the best interests of its residents.
- ◆ Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
- ◆ Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
- ◆ Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
- ◆ Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

Are you an OPSRRA member? Do you want to receive the OPSRRA newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRA is now e-mailing this newsletter to over 100 of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Ken Pungente	President	Arnie Campbell	Vice-President
Phone:	642-5177	Phone:	642-3113
		Email:	d.acampbell@shaw.ca
VACANT	Secretary/Treasurer		
Sandy Barta	Director	James Dexter	Director
Email:	sbarta@shaw.ca	Phone:	642-6841
		Email:	dexmar@shaw.ca
David Evans	Director	Mitch Moneo	Director
Phone:	642-2477	Phone:	642-5146
		Email:	moneo@shaw.ca
Wayne Fritz	Director		
Phone:	642-0440		
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1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar.

Thursday
February 2

Juan de Fuca Parks Committee
Multi Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Phillips Road Sooke

Saturday
February 4

Benefit Band Concert For The Muir Creek Protection Society
5:00 p.m. to midnight
Shirley Community Hall

Tickets are \$10.00 and must be purchased in advance
Call Amanda: 646-2433

Saturday
February 4

Muir Creek Hike
Sponsored by the Muir Creek Protection Society

Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Muir Creek parking lot.

Saturday
February 4

Otter Point Governance Study Petition
sign the petition
9:00 a.m. to noon
Otter Point Fire Hall parking lot:

Sunday
February 5

SEAS Membership Meeting
2:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

- Thursday
February 9 **B.C. Landowners Association public meeting**
for Otter Point & Shirley Rural "A" and waterfront
property owners concerned about the possible re-zoning
of their property. Legal, insurance, etc. information will
be presented.
7:30 p.m.
upstairs in the Sooke Legion
- Saturday
February 11 **Otter Point Governance Study Petition**
sign the petition
9:00 a.m. to noon
Otter Point Fire Hall parking lot:
- Saturday
February 18 **Otter Point Governance Study Petition**
sign the petition
9:00 a.m. to noon
Otter Point Fire Hall parking lot:
- Tuesday
February 21 **OPSRRA Annual General Meeting**
7:30 p.m.
Otter Point Fire Hall
3727 Otter Point Road
- Tuesday
February 21 **JDF Land Use Committee Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Check with the CRD Planning Services Office for the
location
- You can obtain the agenda at the CRD Planning
Services office, 2-6868 West Coast Road or on the CRD
website at: www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/index.htm
Click on "Agenda" at the top of the page.
- Thursday
March 2 **Juan de Fuca Parks Committee**
Multi Purpose Room "A"
SEAPARC Leisure Complex
2168 Phillips Road Sooke
- Saturday
March 4 **JDF Community Trails Society**
Broom Hill summit hike
Meet 10:00 a.m.
on Manatu Road
- Wednesday
January 11 **Shirley Community Association
Annual General Meeting**
7:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall
- Second and Fourth
Thursday
of every month **Shirley Quilters and Crafters**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Community Hall

2. OPSRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Meeting:

OPSRRA's AGM is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Otter Point Fire Hall. The agenda will be sent to members who are on OPSRRA's e-mail list.

Want to be added to the e-mail list? Contact:

Arnie Campbell

d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Nominations:

Send nominations to the Nominating Committee. Contact:

Ken Pungente

642-5177

Mitch Moneo

642-5146 or moneo@shaw.ca

David Evans

642-2477

3. LOCAL STORY FEATURED IN THE GLOBE & MAIL

The February 2 issue of the Globe & Mail featured a story written by Otter Point journalist Shannon Moneo. It was about another Otter Point resident, Mary Alice Johnson, an organic gardener who owns and operates ALM Farms and Full Circle Seeds. The story described the apprenticeship organic gardening program that Mary Alice offers in addition to supplying produce to restaurants and the public through her seasonal produce "box" program. Great to see local talent in a national newspaper! Well done.

4. REPORT ON JUAN DE FUCA TRAILS SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Sid Jorna – President of the JDF Community Trails Society submitted the following to the OPSRRA newsletter:

The Juan De Fuca Community Trails Society hosted Mr. Patrick Lucey speaking on the topic "*The future will be written, not in ink but in water*". His talk provided a view of ecologically sensitive development and restoration of wetlands. He demonstrates the role that wetlands, creeks and river systems play in the ecology. Through a number of case studies of local subdivision developments in the Blenkinsop Valley and the Swan Creek and Colquitz Creek systems, he demonstrates the principles of ecologically sensitive subdivision development and makes the case that it is far more profitable for developers to execute subdivision development in an ecological manner. His case studies show the developer increasing his profit margin and the community gaining recreational space including vital trail links in the Lochside Trail system and to the elementary schools in the area and the ecology of the water system improving. The principles he describe lead to enhanced property values by delivering more pleasant and healthy surroundings for people while enhancing and protecting the fragile ecosystems that sustain us all.

Trails play a crucial role in the development of healthy communities as they bring people into the land to promote a sense of ownership. Properly executed trails also provide "eyes on the land", that is essential for stewardship. The talk was absolutely fascinating and should be heard by all with an interest in land use. The talk was followed up with a field trip to see the developments he has showcased.

Mr. Lucey has also offered to provide a follow-up talk on the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian zones.

Mr. Lucey knows of what he speaks and his enthusiasm for the topic is evident. He is primarily a scientist who has climbed out of the “ivory tower” to achieve tangible results. His training is as a taxonomist and aquatic ecologist. He is a professor at U.Vic and his family runs a ranch on a river in the interior. He is the president of Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd. This company operates at a local and international level with development and water issues.

5. CAN ANYONE DONATE A FLIP CHART TO OPSRRA?

OPSRRA needs a flip chart. We have been making do with a borrowed one for our meetings, but no longer have access to the “loaner”. Does someone have a flip chart that we can either have or would be willing to lend to us for several days at a time?

Contact Arnie Campbell at 642-313 or at d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you can help.

6. CHANGES ON THE OPSRRA WEB SITE

Have a look at the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca—there have been some changes. We now have:

- ◆ A new home page
- ◆ Minutes of the Directors’ meetings posted
- ◆ A governance section with information on the Governance Study, including the minutes of the January 10 meeting with the Ministry of Community Services
- ◆ On-line registration for new members
- ◆ On-line registration for business services listings

7. UPDATE ON OPSRRA’S REQUEST FOR A GOVERNANCE STUDY

On January 10, representatives from seven Shirley and Otter Point community organizations met with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Services responsible for Governance; our provincial MLA and the JDF Regional Director were also present. OPSRRA organized this meeting, and representatives from the Shirley Community Association, Shirley Education and Action Society, Sheringham Estates Water Users, Kemp Lake Waterworks District and the Otter Point Fire Department attended. The meeting’s purpose was to present the Ministry with reasons why the proposed annexation of properties in Otter Point, by the District of Sooke, should not proceed and why our two communities needed to have a Governance study to examine our future governance options.

The minutes of this meeting are available on the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca under GOVERNANCE.

Summary of OPSRRA’s reasons for supporting a Governance study for Shirley and Otter Point:

1. The need for a comparative analysis of costs and benefits of different governance options, (e.g. incorporation, “rural alliance”, joining Metchosin).
2. Status quo is not an option if rural property continues to be annexed on an ad hoc (piece-meal, leap frog and non-contiguous) basis such as Silver Spray and the properties in the Kemp lake watershed.

3. The need for broader elected representation to maximize community participation in decision-making. Being restricted to one elected representative can result in too narrow a point-of-view and dramatic swings in leadership and ad hoc decision-making.
4. The need for local control over subdivision approval and zoning (e.g. our own subdivision Approving Officer).
5. The need for a long-term plan (vision) for all the unincorporated rural land on South West Vancouver Island (Port Renfrew, Jordan River, Shirley, Otter Point and East Sooke).
6. The need to be included in Regional Growth Strategy decisions that affect local area (e.g. District of Sooke's intent to request to move the urban containment boundary to include any annexed properties).
7. The need to explore more democratic and effective governance models that will eventually lead to municipal governance.
8. There is no requirement under legislation for us to be consulted about some decisions (e.g. boundary extension), thus we have little or no awareness of decisions being made until one of the governing bodies makes a public announcement.
9. According to the latest CRD Voter numeration, 1,047 or about 31% of the eligible voters in the JDF Electoral Area reside on the View Royal Indian Lands. The Indian lands are an "orphan" within the CRD and are attached to the JDFA for administrative reasons. This is a governance anomaly that needs to be corrected.
10. Otter Point and Shirley are likely facing short-term land-use decisions that have long-term consequences for the community:
 - Crown land makes-up 17% of Otter Point's OCP area (somewhat less in Shirley) and the province is presently negotiating Indian land claims that identify some of this crown land for treaty settlement;
 - Large private forest land parcels are being logged and placed on the real estate market;
 - Annexation of border lands by the District of Sooke;
 - Possible gravel pit (Blueberry Flats) in Shirley?

8. GOVERNANCE STUDY PETITION

The Otter Point and Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) has organized a petition asking the Provincial Government to sponsor a study to examine Otter Point's future governance options. This is a cooperative effort with the Shirley community (who are circulating their own petition).

The Otter Point petition can be signed at the following locations:

Otter Point Fire Hall parking lot	February 4, 11 and 18 9:00 a.m. to Noon
OPSRRA's AGM	Tuesday, February 21 7:30 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall

or

Signed petitions can be dropped-off at the Kemp Lake Store.

or

Clip, complete and mail the petition coupon below by February 15 to:

OPSRRA
c/o Arnie Campbell
2950 Michelson Road
Sooke BC V0S 1N0

**THE RESIDENTS AND LANDOWNERS OF OTTER POINT PETITION THE
MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR A STUDY EXAMINING OTTER
POINT'S FUTURE GOVERNANCE OPTIONS.**

Name	Address	Signature

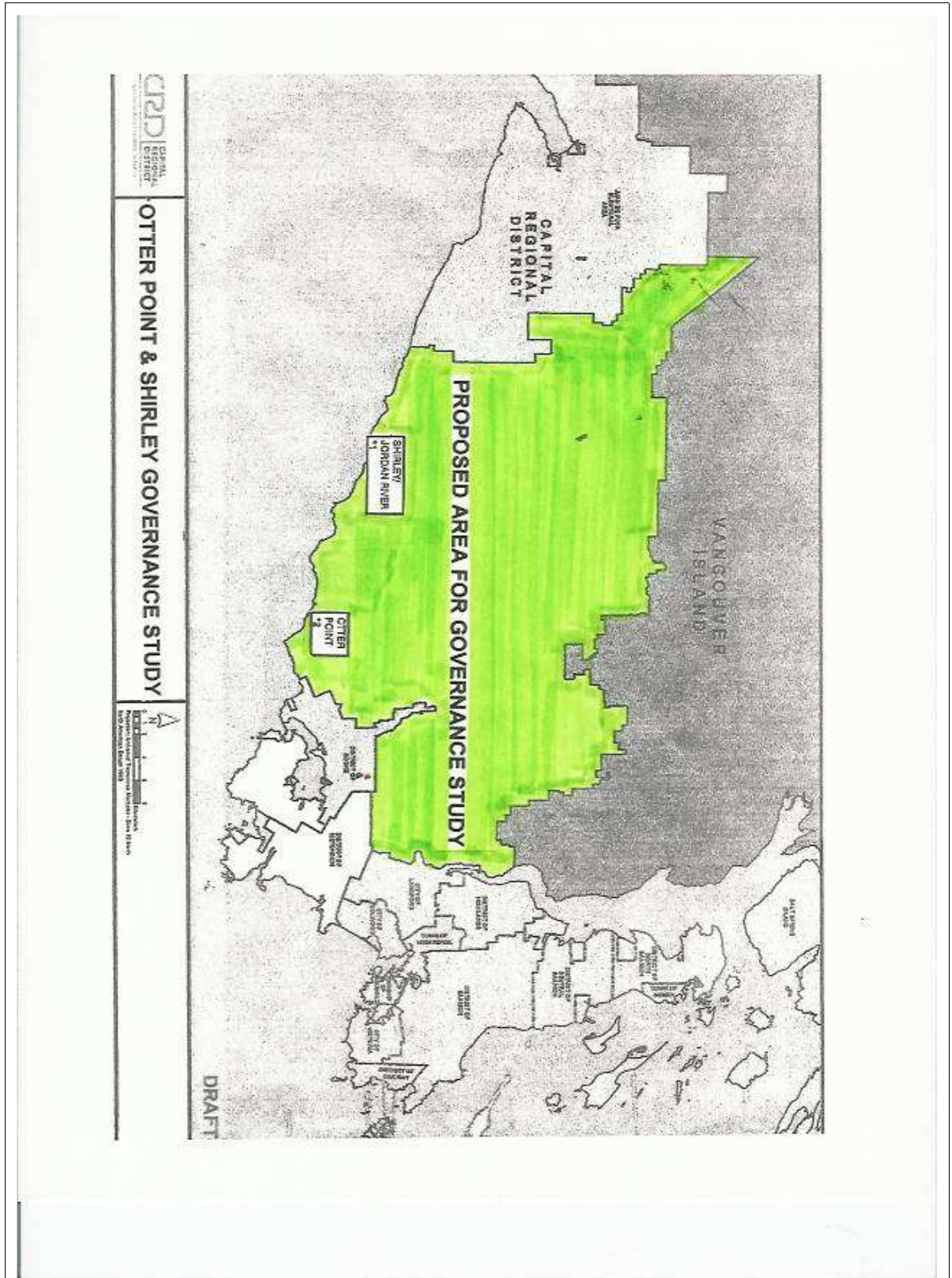
For more information contact:

Ken Pungente 642-5177
Jim Dexter 642-6841
Wayne Fritz 642-0440
Arnie Campbell 642-3113 or d.acampbell@shaw.ca

Or see OPSRRA's on-line newsletter at www.opsrra.ca

For more information about the Shirley petition contact Terri at 646-2528

9. MAP SHOWING THE PROPOSED AREA FOR A SHIRLEY & OTTER POINT GOVERNANCE STUDY



10. OTTER POINT “PIONEER PARK” CORRESPONDENCE

OPSRRA is continuing its efforts to have a portion of Crown Land in the 3800 block of Otter Point Rd. turned-over to the community as a park. The site has the visible remains of the “Old Otter Point” and is worth preserving as a park area. It has also been identified by the Juan de Fuca Trails Society as a suitable location for trailhead for the trails system that they are trying to preserve in the King Creek Catchment Area.

OPSRRA recently wrote the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission and received a copy of the following letter that was sent to the provincial ministry responsible for Crown Land.

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission
P.O. Box 421
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0
642-8000

January 9, 2006

Mike McCammon, Project Manager, Sales
Regional Client Services Division
Integrated Land Management Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Suite 501 – 345 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B6

Dear Mr. McCammon:

I write you regarding the old Emerson school site located in Section 52, Otter District.

In 2004 the Commission was asked to comment on the Crown Land referral concerning the potential disposition of the land encompassing the old school site. At that time, the Commission had advised that, subject to disposition of the land, there may be public interest in identifying the site as a heritage site. At present, it is understood that the site may be identified in the Te'mexw Treaty Association land selection process.

At its meeting of January 5, 2006, the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission received correspondence from the Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association advising of continued community interest in securing the school site for park and/or potential site for a community hall.

On behalf of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission, I advise you of the Commission's support for preservation of the Otter Point school site and the Commission's interest in discussing assumption of responsibility of a gifted parcel.

Your contact for Commission matters is Larry Hutchings, Parks and Recreation Manager. Mr. Hutchings can be reached at 642-8000.

Yours truly,



Louise Paterson, Chair
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission

cc: Tena Gilmore, Assistant Negotiator, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Erik Lund, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Regional Director
✓ Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association
Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society

LP/wm

11. MUIR CREEK PROTECTION CORRESPONDENCE

OPSRRA wrote the following letter to TimberWest in support of the Muir Creek Protection Society's efforts to protect the Lower portion of Muir Creek from intensive logging.

OTTER POINT AND SHIRLEY RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

www.opsrra.ca

Steve Lorimer, Manager
First Nation & Community Relations
Suite 2300-1055 West Georgia St.
P. O. Box 11101
Vancouver, B. C.
V6E 3P3
January 2, 2006

Dear Mr. Lorimer:

The Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association represents about 350 residents who live in the communities of Otter Point and Shirley.

It has recently been brought to our attention that TimberWest plans to harvest timber along Muir Creek. OPSRRA recognizes that the area to be logged is on privately owned land and that forest activity on that land is the prerogative of the landowner. However, OPSRRA also recognizes that Muir Creek is a salmon-bearing watercourse and is concerned about the impact logging activity will have on the creek and fish habitat.

It is our understanding that the minimum riparian zone on privately-held land is 10 metres. OPSRRA does not believe, given the importance of the creek and the area's topography, that a 10-metre setback will provide adequate protection.

We are therefore requesting that TimberWest consider a larger buffer zone as part of its harvest plan. It is our understanding that current regulations require a minimum 30-metre riparian zone for logging on Crown lands. OPSRRA is therefore asking TimberWest to adopt a similar minimum setback for its planned harvest activity along Muir Creek.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Ken Pungente, President

c.c. Gilbert Richir, R.P.F., Stewardship Forester, South Island Forest District
Pacific Region, Department of Fisheries & Oceans

12. JDF ELECTORAL AREA OFFICES HAVE MOVED

Effective Monday, February 6, 2006, the following CRD offices will be moving to a new location:

- ◆ Electoral Area Planning Services
- ◆ Building Inspection
- ◆ JDF Regional Director

New location: 2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke
Mailing address: P.O. Box 283, Sooke BC V0S 1N0
New telephone: (250) 642-1500
Fax: (250) 642-5274 (remains the same)

To facilitate the move to the new location, the current CRD office on Otter Point Road will operate on the following schedule:

Thursday, February 2: Open 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Closed 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m.
Friday, February 3: Closed all day

The new office on West Coast Road will then be opened as follows:

Monday, February 6: Closed 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Open 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 7: Regular hours return
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

During office closure, contact the CRD at 524 Yates Street, Victoria (360-3000), if you require immediate assistance.

Contact the CRD Electoral Area Planning Services office at 642-1620 for further information

13. FREE ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE

Do you operate a small business? Are you an OPSRRA member? OPSRRA is offering a free business listing service for members, on its web site: www.opsrra.ca We will list non-members for a suitable donation!

The purpose of this service is to provide an opportunity for businesses in Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point to advertise their goods and services to their local community. We anticipate having listings for accommodation, farm produce, art, furniture, fishing charters, eco tours, firewood, knitting, soaps, landscaping, bookkeeping, sewing and more. More information, businesses already listed and a registration form are available on OPSRRA's web site (www.opsrra.ca) under Business Listings.

The following business listings are on the OPSRRA web site:

Malahat Farms B&B	Beaches West B&B	Birds Edge Press
ALM Organic Farm	Full Circle Seeds	Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Tugwell Creek Meadery	Kemp Lake Store	Sandy's Drywall Ltd
1001 Welding & Equipment Repair		Otter Point Beach House

14. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site.

This monthly newsletter is prepared by the directors of OPSRRA. It is available to members by e-mail and to others on our web site: www.opsrra.ca. To have an item you would like to have considered for placement in the newsletter, or make a comment about the newsletter, contact an OPSRRA director. OPSRRA tries to verify the correctness of the information in this newsletter; if we have got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.
