

Otford Parish Council

April Newsletter 2017

No 261

Twinned with Neufchatel-Hardelot

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Parish Council

For those interested in all the activities of OPC, the minutes of meetings are available in the library, and all minutes, agendas and newsletters can be obtained via the web (also available in the library). They can all be read via <http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil>. The next meetings will be on **10th April** and **8th May** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

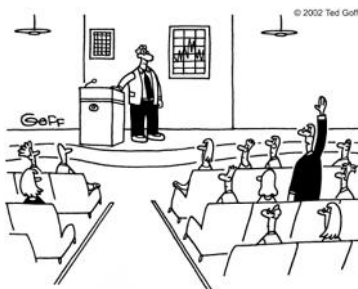
Chairman's Report

The Great British Clean-Up 2017 in Otford



Otford joined the Great British Clean-Up in March! A group from Otford Oast WI made the flowerbed on the village green look really beautiful and The Otford Twinning Association thoroughly cleaned up the footpath from the Scout Hut to Tudor Drive. A group tidied up Telston Park and Pickmoss Lane has been given a spring clean. Litter pickers also attacked the Sevenoaks Road from the parade to the motorway. A big thank you to everyone who took part. A lot of litter was picked up this weekend and it does seem a shame that our village has so much of it. It would be wonderful if everyone thought about this and were not careless about their rubbish. Let's make Otford a litter-free zone!

Annual Assembly



"Could we extend the annual meeting? I still have a lot of complaining to do!"

This is notification for the Annual Assembly of the Electors of the Parish, more commonly called the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held, in the Club Room of the Village Hall on **Monday 3rd April** at 7pm for refreshments before a 7.30pm start. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village and to talk to representatives from village organisations who will be present so please attend if you can.

Otford Village Society Annual General Meeting

The Society will hold its Annual General Meeting in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 18th April** at 8pm. We are very fortunate to have 3 officers from Sevenoaks District Council who will be giving a talk on Planning.

Since the Society AGM in 2016 when the Society was struggling with retirements of key people, we were very fortunate that new volunteers joined the committee. During the year, we have kept a watchful eye on events including reviewing and commenting on the study on East Facing M26 slip roads, which included an option at Otford, held a successful Community Christmas party, reviewed the Kent County Council draft Transport Plan for 2016 to 2030 and started reviewing the village community for buildings that should possibly be formally protected.

With more new blood we would be able to do more.

Can you help? Please email chairman@otfordsociety.org.uk (without commitment) if you would like to help with Society projects or events. Even giving an hour's help lightens the load, and you'll get to meet some good people.

For the Society to continue to have the respect of local authorities it needs to have a large number of supporters; registration of email addresses so far has been slow. Register now as a supporter by emailing membership@otfordsociety.org.uk. Even if you think we have your email address it would be good if you emailed again as a few addresses we have are either out of date or incorrect.

We will only email when there is something to say about Society affairs, other relevant news about the village, and ways in which you can help to improve and maintain our amazing village. It is estimated that there would be less than 10 emails a year.

Fair Feast 2017



Held at Otford Methodist Church on Shrove Tuesday (28th February), Fair Feast 2017 raised £1,252 for urgently needed relief work in those parts of East Africa facing famine and continuing conflict. Warmest thanks are extended to everyone who shared in or supported this event in any way. Shrove Tuesday 2018 is on 13th February.

Community Warden Surgery



Paul holds his weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House on Tuesdays between 11am and 12 noon. Come and see him. Paul can also be contacted on 07813 713366.

Otford Village Fete - Monday 29th May -

Gates open at 12noon



This year the fete will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the building of Otford's Tudor Palace.

There has been an Archbishop's Manor House or Palace at Otford since the early-ninth century, and over the long course of the Middle Ages, kings and queens had been entertained as guests of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Indeed, six Archbishops became saints, each of whom

lived and prayed here at Otford. Perhaps the most famous of the previous 56 was St Thomas à Becket whose martyrdom saw pilgrims pass through Otford on their journey to his shrine in Canterbury Cathedral.

Five hundred years ago, in the reign of King Henry VIII, the then Archbishop, William Warham, resolved to rebuild Otford Palace on a truly awe-inspiring scale. In its day, Otford Palace was larger than Hampton Court - as befitted the home of the senior cleric in the land. Such magnificence did not go unnoticed, and in 1537 King Henry VIII took the palace as his own.

However, by the end of the Tudor Period, its splendour had passed and due to Queen Elizabeth 1st refusal to spend money on repairs it faded from the national scene and we are left with the ruined fragments we see today. Now, at last, what was arguably the most colourful and important period of our history is receiving the attention it deserves.

More information on this year's fete will appear in the May issue of the Parish Newsletter. You can also visit our website: www.otford.info/villagefete to read about our plans for 2017.

Your Village Memorial Hall - Update on refurbishment plan

We are already researching funding opportunities for our next phase, which is the Main Hall, but these rely on us having raised a proportion of the project costs ourselves. Consequently, any contributions you can make will be very gratefully received. Please also consider leaving a donation to The Otford Village Memorial Hall in your Will.

If you haven't yet donated and are able and willing to do so, please send your cheque to: The Treasurer, OVMH, 69, Knighton Road, TN14 5LE or by Bacs to OVMH, Sort Code 09 01 53 Account Number 84811701. Please email ovmh.treasurer@otford.net or write to The Treasurer with your name and address and amount donated as we are now able to claim Gift Aid on personal donations.

Otford Village Memorial Hall Presents

GLORIATOR



What happens when a glamorous French actress and her hapless assistant stage their version of Hollywood blockbuster *Gladiator*?

Wonderfully inventive, physical, and very silly.

Gloriator was created by French/English female comedy duo Spitz & Co with the help of Angus Barr (Public Transport) and Aitor Basauri (Spymonkey). It won the

Critics Choice Award at Exeter Ignite, and was developed with support from Arts Council England and Bristol Old Vic Ferment.

"Belly-achingly funny" - Gloucester Citizen

"I hooted. I snorted. I exploded with such mirth that the tears streamed down my face." - Stroud News & Journal

"Catch them now before they're selling out the Albert Hall" - Mel Giedroyc, Woman's Weekly

On **Friday 21st April** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Tickets prices are £10 for adults and £5 for children 5 -16 years old, Under 5's free. Tickets available from 1st March and can be purchased from Yvonne's (Telston Lane), The Otford Emporium, Otford Parish Council Offices and Wegottickets.com. Entry is by ticket only and these are strictly limited. The performance lasts for just over an hour. All profits will go to the Otford Memorial Hall Refurbishment Fund.

Otford Heritage Centre

We are very fortunate, as a parish, to have a fascinating and significant heritage and to have a Heritage Centre with relevant artefacts displayed and stored and information held and shared. The centre is run entirely by volunteers and we are most grateful to all who have helped and help today,

Inevitably, further volunteers are required from time to time and this is such a moment. The range of tasks is considerable, including helping to gather information and prepare displays, receiving and caring for artefacts and serving as stewards. More particularly, we need people to run the centre's shop, help arrange the stewarding rota, serve as press officer or meetings secretary and help with running Coffee and Cake mornings. If you feel tempted to offer to help, please ring me (01959 522325) or send me an email (douglascracknell@aol.com) and we'll be delighted to explore with you the possibilities.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 20th April** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Kate Sargent from the Alzheimers Society will answer questions concerning Dementia. The first visit is free. For more details or if you wish to join please contact the Secretary Sharna Peyto on 07860 463656.

Saturday Coffee Morning



Don't forget if you happen to be in the village on a Saturday morning between 10:30 and 12:00 you can get a cup of tea or coffee in the village for just 50p in the Club Room at the Village Memorial Hall (and throw in a biscuit for free as well!) Quite a number of village residents turn up every week so why not come and meet friends and neighbours and help to support your local village hall at the same time.

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church warmly invite everyone to go to their Easter services. On **Palm Sunday 9th April** at 10.45am all the Otford churches will meet at the Otford Methodist Church car park for our joint Palm Sunday celebration when we will walk up the High Street to the Green. On April 14th, we will meet in our hall for our Good Friday service. Children will be making a special Easter garden at this time. On Easter Sunday, we will hold our celebratory service with communion at 10.30am. Please take this opportunity to come and meet us at this special time of year. Check out our website: <http://otfordmethodistchurch.org.uk>

Otford -Neufchatel - Hardelet Twinning Association

Our Hardelet Twins are visiting Eltham Palace by coach on **Wednesday 19th April** and are coming to Otford for tea and cake at about 4pm in the Church Centre. It would be appreciated if you could bring a cake, but you will be most welcome whether you bring one or not.

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers - Girlguiding



The 2017 Sainsbury's Active Kids Scheme has been running since the end of January and Girlguiding Otford are saving the vouchers again this year to benefit the village's Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior Section units. Vouchers are available until 2nd May and we would like to ask for your help again in saving the vouchers for us. There is no limit to how many we can collect, so please spread the word to everyone. Vouchers can be dropped into our collecting box, located in the Parish Office, during normal opening hours. Our

village Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units are currently full with long waiting lists. The demand for places at all Rainbow and Brownie units in the Sevenoaks area far exceeds places available and we would love to open new units to provide fun and adventurous opportunities for more girls. We can only do this if we have new adult leaders. If you are female, aged 18 or over and interested in finding out more about volunteering with us and training to become a Leader we would love to hear from you. Please register your interest at: www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer.aspx and one of the local leaders will be in touch with you. Volunteering as a leader is hugely rewarding but most of all great fun!



Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of 2017 will be on **Wednesday 19th April** at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm for tea and biscuits) when you can hear about "*The 1936 Olympics*" with Tony Bosworth. Adult subscription is £10. No charge for under 16's and visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting.

Otford Library - Craft Mornings



On **Saturday 22nd April** between 10am -12.00 noon there will be a craft morning in Otford Library. Please book to ensure a place and call for further details on 03000 413131. This is a free activity but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Otford Library Storytime / Bounce & Rhyme



There is also a new (free) story time session for pre-schoolers on Tuesdays between 2.30-3.00pm. This is every Tuesday, term time only. The Baby bounce and rhyme time for pre-schoolers is on every Monday 11.00-11.30am throughout the year.

Otford Library Contact Number



If you want to contact the Library, you will need to call 03000 413131. This number goes through to a 'main contact centre' where you then request to be put through to Otford library.

Otford Library Computer/ IT help



Volunteer assistance with IT problems is available in the Library on Mondays from 10am to 12 noon and Saturdays 10am to 12 noon. The Library has free public WiFi. When people join the Library they can bring their iPad/tablet or laptop, be able to connect to the internet and get help. If anyone is interested call the number above and ask to be put through to Otford Library or just pop in and ask to book a time with a volunteer.

Otford Evening WI



April is our 58th Birthday Meeting and we will celebrate the occasion with a hot supper and a glass of wine in the MAIN HALL of the Otford Village Memorial Hall. The date is **Thursday 13th April** at 7pm for 7.30pm and is a members only meeting. '100 Years of Musical Theatre' is the subject of our speaker, Martyn Harrison, so we look forward to an enjoyable evening. For more information or to join please contact our President on 01959 524831.

Otford Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 4th April** when Michael Abel a horticulturalist and lecturer will talk about '*Biological and non-chemical control of pests*'. The admission price, which includes refreshments, has been held at £2 per person. Membership rates for the Society, remain at £5 for a single membership and £8 for a joint membership. Please contact Janet Finney on 523760, or email gardeners@otford.net for further details. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 29th April** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when there will be an all-day workshop with Janet Cronin on '*Japanese Embroidery*'. The meetings start at 10am and 2pm and end with tea and cakes at about 4pm. For further information please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

Kemsing Singers



The next concert by the Kemsing Singers will take place on **Saturday 20th May** at 7.30pm in St Edith Hall, Kemsing with the title '*Songs of Sea & River*'. A sparkling programme including Stanford's Song of the sea with baritone Tom Wood, Captain Noah and his floating Zoo, an amusing jazz cantata, spirituals including Michael Row the Boat Ashore and Deep River and much more. Tickets are £8 and available from 01959 523752.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 6th April** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Peter Holden MBE will talk about '*Giving Nature a Home*'. A look at some of the fascinating wildlife that scientists have found benefit from our activities in the garden and further afield. Some top tips for making simple improvements to our garden habitats, and a look at some of the initiatives being taken by the RSPB to increase biodiversity. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.

Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve

On **Friday 14th, Saturday 15th, Sunday 16th and Monday 17th April** between 11am and 4pm each day why not go along to the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve in Bradbourne Vale Road for a wildlife themed Easter Trail. Check out the Kent Wildlife Trust website for other Easter trails.

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society



Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The lectures start promptly at 1.45 pm and finish by 3 pm. The next lecture is on **Thursday 20th April** when Susan Ruffitt will talk about '*The Romance of Nature: Early Victorian Jewellery*'

Watercolour Painting Classes

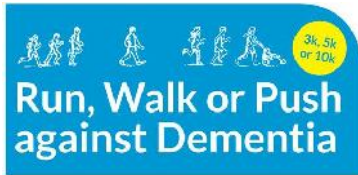
There are some spare places available on the Watercolour Painting Courses for beginners and improvers held in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30am. Contact Sue Bradley on 07715 663993 or suebradley5@sky.com if you are interested.

Heritage Centre artist April- Jean Boyd Barrett



Jean says 'I initially started painting flowers in watercolours after retiring early from teaching. I found an excellent teacher in Julie King at Tonbridge Adult Education classes. I have also used other media such as pastels, pen and acrylics and have learned to paint on silk but watercolour remains my favourite medium. Recently I have been experimenting with mixed media with varying success! My favourite subjects to paint are flowers, dogs and landscapes'.

Run, Walk or Push Against Dementia



'Run, walk or push against dementia' is taking place in Knole Park on the morning of **Sunday 14th May** to raise money for people affected by Dementia in the Sevenoaks area.

How far will you go?

With timed routes of 3, 5 and 10 kilometres on offer, this event is perfect for families and beginners through to seasoned runners. Everyone who registers will receive a voucher offering a 10% discount in the 'Up and Running' shop in Sevenoaks High Street. They can also take advantage of free, professionally led running classes as they prepare for the event. Everyone who crosses the finishing line will also be presented with a commemorative medal. Entry for the 10k run is £15. This run is intended for keen runners and is not open to under 16s or people with pushchairs.

Higher registration prices will apply after 7th May.

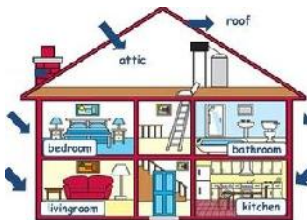
Starting times are 10am for the 10k run, 10.15am for the 5k run and 10.30am for the 3k run.

Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach



The surgery will take place on **Tuesday 4th April** between 10am and 12 noon. Drop in appointments may be available on the day. For telephone advice or to book an appointment at the Otford outreach: ring 01732 440488 and leave a message at any time. For email advice: info@sevenoaks.cab.org.uk

Planning



The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Head of Development Services, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000.

A .New Applications

SE/17/00210 **30 Rye Lane**

Removal of canopy. Erection of porch

SE/17/00389 **13 The Old Walk**

Demolition of existing sun room and kitchen. Conversion of double garage into habitable space. Ground floor extension.

SE/17/99497 **Merlins, 42, Hillydeal Road**

Removal of existing loggia. Construction of a single storey rear extension.

SE/17/00164 **6 Tudor Drive**

Erection of a 1st floor side extension and a single storey rear extension. A new ramped access to the side of the property. Removal of chimney. Alterations to

fenestration and internal alterations. Conversion of garage into habitable room.
Amendment: Amended plans showing proposed 1st floor side extension stepped in from the boundary by 1metre.

SE/16/03703 **62 Willow Park**

Erection of a 1st floor rear extension. **Amendment:** Amended drawings received.

B. Results Received

SE/16/03956 **Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road**

Sub-division of the existing plot, demolition of existing outbuildings and the erection of a new 5no bedroom dwelling with a linked garage. New access drive and vehicle crossover. *Allowed*

SE/16/03957 **Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road**

Demolition of rear conservatory and single storey side facing lean-to. Erection of a two-storey side extension, single storey rear orangery and two-storey gable element to the front façade. New dormers to the rear elevation with minor alterations to the front and rear fenestration. Extension of the existing loft space. Erection of a new garage and annex to the front of the property with an amended driveway and relocated vehicle crossover. *Allowed*

SE/16/03303 **McDonalds Restaurant, Old Otford Road**

Installation of 9no signs to accommodate the new drive thru layout *Allowed*

SE/16/03296 **McDonalds Restaurant, Old Otford Road**

Reconfiguration of the car park and drive thru lane to accommodate the introduction of side by side ordering, including a new island for signage and amendments to kerb lines with associated works to the site. Alterations to elevations include a new 'Folded Roof' concept, comprising of new aluminium cladding to the roof, and new style drive thru booths. Installation of extensions, totalling 27sqm. The installation of 2no Customer Order Displays (COD). New fascia signs to be installed. Installation of container and associated works.

Allowed

SE/16/03297 **McDonalds Restaurant, Old Otford Road**

Installation of new and retention of existing fascia signs: new suite to comprise 3 no white 'MCDONALDS' signs and 4 no yellow 'GOLDEN ARCH' symbols

Allowed

SE/17/00087 **McDonalds Restaurant, Old Otford Road**

Installation of a new freestanding 5 metre Totem sign *Allowed*

SE/16/03912 **16 The Butts**

Loft conversion with front dormer addition to existing roof *Refused*

SE/16/03867 **The Birches, 28 The Butts**

Erection of a front canopy. Erection of a two-storey side & rear extension. Erection of a ground floor and first floor rear extension. Loft conversion to include a roof light to front and dormer window to rear. Improvements to the external appearance including fenestration. *Refused*

SE/17/00030 **45 Sidney Gardens**

Minor material amendment to SE/16/02905 for the construction of a summer house in the rear garden. In order to reduce the size of the summer house.

Allowed

SE/17/00102 **21 Knighton Road**

Erection of a single storey rear extension and associated internal alterations

Allowed

SE/16/03718 **Land south of 83A Pilgrims Way West**

Erection of a detached 3 bed dwelling house with access, associated parking and landscaping.

Allowed

C. Appeals

SE/16/01141 **7, Hale Lane**

An appeal was made against the decision to refuse planning permission for an infill 3no bedroom house on land to the west of 7, Hale Lane *Appeal Dismissed*

SE/16/01826 **2 New Barns Farm Cottages, Telston Lane**

An appeal was made against the decision to refuse planning permission for a 1st floor extension to the front elevation on timber supports. *Appeal Allowed*

Health Walk



Go along and try the Health Walk which starts from Otford Car Park every Monday at 10.30am. The walks last normally about an hour. The walks are free and are organised by Sevenoaks District Council. There is no need to book.

Rubbish and Garden Bags

Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £13.50 for 25. **(PLEASE NOTE NEW PRICE from 1st April will be £14.50)** It avoids all those trips to the tip. Rolls of black sacks at £1.50 and white sacks at 50p are also available. Please try and bring the right money.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the May newsletter is Monday 17th April

Wishing you all a Very Happy Easter



Dine out on your High Street and shop local on the High Street
and Parade for Easter