

Otford Parish Council
December / January Newsletter 2016/17



No 258



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 **12th December** and **9th January** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Chairman's Report



December and January will soon be upon us and we are due a cold Winter, so take care and start to prepare - DON'T LEAVE IT ALL TO OTHERS. To quote President Kennedy "Don't ask what does the Parish Council do for me ask what can I do for the Parish Council"

Buy some salt - available from all "do-it -yourself" outlets Do NOT take the salt from the roadside bins for you own paths and drives, it is for the roads and pavements only and anyone caught "stealing" the salt is likely to be prosecuted by KCC.

Clear your paths before you walk on them - loose snow is easier to remove than compacted snow. If you are unable to clear them, ask a neighbour - think about the postman as well as the delivery men and women. Do NOT pour water on the paths to clear them, it is likely to turn to ice and be even more dangerous.

Think about your neighbours, if you have a 4-wheel drive and they do not and cannot get to the shops, then offer them a lift. Look after the elderly and infirm - we will all get there one day. If you haven't seen your neighbour for a few days and that is unusual - tell someone - phone the office and we will contact Paul, our Community Warden.



The weather was fine yet again on Sunday the 13th for the village remembrance service, which was carried out to its usual impeccable standard - how often do we see our church full to overflowing. The Parish Council arranged for the usual road closure around the pond and the silence during the ceremony around the memorial was deafening - only broken by the distant fly-past of the Spitfire and Hurricane and the poignant rendering of the Last Post. Yet again I must pay tribute to the young "Otfordians" especially from the Scouts and Guides who behaved impeccably and are a credit to both their parents and the village.



By now you should all have received a "Housing Needs Study" from the District Council. It is **imperative** that you complete this as it will inform the SDC and the Government of our housing requirements. Your personal details will **NOT** be disclosed to **ANY** third party. Data will not be linked to any individual and SDC will not have sight of the individual responses. However, the information is required to see if we need "affordable housing" for the young, or "retirement housing" for the elderly, or both. We need the income data to establish the affordability. Once we have this information then we will be able to make a case for what to build and where. With nothing to back us up we don't stand a chance of being able to help you or your children.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from myself and all the Parish Councillors and staff

Christmas Shopping -Shop Local



Please remember your local shops as we approach the festive time of year. Get presents from our lovely individual village shops, have your beauty treatments and dine out in our cafes, restaurant or pubs. Support your local businesses.

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.

Your Village Memorial Hall - Christmas Update and Appeal



Yes - It really is your Village Hall. The land on which it stands was given to the Village by Lord Mildmay in 1920. Initially a Hut was erected and this was used until 1950 until it became structural unsound. Our new Main Hall was built in 1953 with funds raised by public subscription. The Club Room was

added in 1983 with the help of Otford Cricket Club, local residents and local organisations.

The Village Hall Complex is a Registered Charity managed on behalf of The Village by a Board of Trustees consisting of representatives of many of the local Clubs, Societies and Group who make use of the Halls together with some independent residents.

Our Village Hall is completely owned by all Village Residents and funds required to improve its fabric and facilities come from the income we receive from letting out our facilities, donations and grants from either local authorities or other Charitable Trusts.

Renovation Projects Planned for 2017

January - New Club Room Kitchen (Funded by Ipstock Trust, The Luncheon Club, Donations and Reserves).

February - Hope Room Refurbishment (Funded by Ipstock Trust, Donations and Reserves).

March / April - Replacement Soffits (Partially Funded)

April - Install Sound System including Hearing Loop for The Club Room (Partially funded)

May - Replace redundant Sound System in Main Hall including Hearing Loop (Unfunded)

Future Projects

Our Main Hall was constructed using 1953 building standards and designed to meet 1953 requirements. As a result our lighting and heating costs are very high and the uses for the Hall have changed significantly. Examples of these requirements are:

Badminton Courts which cannot be met as the roof structure prevents makes this impossible.

Changing Rooms for Women's Cricket and other sports and events.

Improved Cricket Pavilion facilities. Currently the Cricket Club and Colts use the Club Room which prevents its use during the summer for other usage.

To future proof the Main Hall we need to consider how we make the Hall relevant to the needs of current and future residents. This means a major investigation which will include local consultations.

Only after these consultations are complete will we be able to approach architects to seek designs and costs.

We are already researching funding opportunities but these rely of 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 our name and address and amount donated as we are now able to claim Gift Aid on personal donations.

Otford Village Society

Community Christmas Party



The Otford Village Society will be hosting an Otford Community Christmas Party on **Saturday 3rd December** in Otford Village Memorial Hall from 7.30pm until late. This is a fundraising event to raise money to carry on refurbishment of the Village Hall. There will be local beers and wine, magic, music, wine tasting, face painting, a hog roast, raffle and silent auction. Tickets are £15 adult and £7.50 children. Tickets from OPC, Yvonne's and The Otford Emporium.



Otford Primary School Bazaar

On **Saturday 3rd December** between 12noon and 3pm Otford Primary School will be holding its Christmas Bazaar. There will be lots of fun things to enjoy including a Christmas market, Christmas ponies, Father Christmas, face painting, silent auction, raffle and lots of fun games for the children to play, Please go along and support the school.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 8th December** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will having a party to celebrate their birthday and Christmas. crèche is available and the first visit is free. For more details or if you wish to join please contact the Secretary Sharna Peyto on 07860 463656 for more details.

Otford & District Historical Society



The next meeting of the 2016/17 Winter programme will be on **Wednesday 7th December** at 8pm, refreshments served from 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when the AGM will be held plus mulled wine and a guest speaker. Adult subscription is £10. No charge for under 16's and visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting. The first meeting of 2017 will be on **Wednesday 18th January** when Professor Peter Wadhams from Cambridge University will talk about 'The Holy Shroud'.

Otford Evening WI

At our Christmas meeting on **Thursday 8th December** we will meet in the Main Hall of the Otford Memorial Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm.

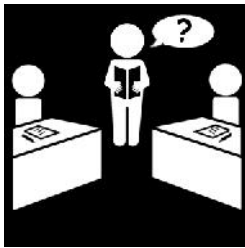
Our speaker, Paul Harris, will entertain us with '*The History of Pantomime*' - Oh yes he will!

We start the New Year of 2017 on **Thursday 12th January** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall.

Jean Surrey's talk is about Souvenirs Past and Present.

Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting and if you are interested in joining us, please contact 01959 524831 for more information.

Otford Gardeners' Society



The final meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday 6th December** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall will be the Annual Quiz and Fun night. Teams of maximum of 6. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

Christmas Wreath / Table & Mantle Arrangement Making Workshop



Denise Thompson our village's own designer florist is offering the chance to come and make a Christmas Wreath on **Wednesday 7th December** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The cost will be £35. Then on **Wednesday 14th December** at 7.00pm she will be holding a Table and Mantle arrangement workshop. Cost again is £35 but arrangements may be more dependent on size required. Everything will be provided at each workshop (except please bring your own scissors/secateurs) and light refreshments will add to the fun. Places are limited so please book on 01959 525009.

Guide Christmas Post Box



The Guide Christmas Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Tuesday 29th November** and **Tuesday 20th December** inclusive during opening hours. A second Box will also be available in the Parish Council Office on Monday to Friday between the same dates. All cards will be delivered by Brownies and Guides before Christmas in Otford village. Stamps will be **25p** per card and all money will go to the girls chosen charities, "Kent Friendz" supporting children and adults with learning disabilities, and "Smokey Paws" dogs and cats oxygen masks for Sevenoaks Firemen. This will be the 34th year that Otford Guides have been delivering Christmas cards in the village and we would like our Christmas Post

Service for the village to continue and to be really successful, so please give generously and support us by posting early.

Library opening hours - Monday 9am - 1pm, Tuesday 9am - 5pm, Wednesday

Closed, Thursday 9am - 1pm, Friday 1pm- 5pm, Saturday - 10am -2pm

Parish Council opening hours- Monday to Friday 8.30am - 12.30pm

Tree of Light



The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 9th December** at 7.00pm on the Village Green. Following the service there will be refreshments offered in the St Bartholomew's Church Centre. Labels for you to write your message on are available from the Parish Council Office. If you cannot get into the office during opening hours (8.30am - 12.30pm) then please phone up and we will write your card for you. Cheques for your donation need to be made out to Hospice in The Weald. The Tree of Light will remain lit up until after the New Year.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



details.

The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 1st December** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Andrew Cleave will give a talk on '*The wildlife of Southern Sweden*'. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more

St Bartholomew's Church Christmas Services



Sunday 4th December

4.00pm - Christingle

Sunday 18th December

10am - YPF Christmas presentation and Sunday Club Nativity Play

Sunday 18th December

6.30pm - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight

Christmas Eve

4.00pm - Crib Service /11.30pm - Midnight Christmas Communion (starting with carols at 11.10pm)

Christmas Day

10.00am - All Together Christmas Communion

St Bartholomew's Church Choir Concert



St Bartholomew's Choir's Annual Christmas concert, will take place in the church on **Sunday 11th December** at 7.30 pm. There will be a mixture of carols old and new, from England and many other countries, with plenty of carols for everyone to join in. Refreshments, in the form

of wine or fruit juice and mince pies, will be available in the interval as always. The admission price is £5 (children free). Please come and support them and bring a friend and get into the Christmas mood.



Oxford Methodist Church Services

Sunday 18th December

10.30am - All Age worship & Children's Advent presentation

6.30pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

5.00pm - Special Christingle children's service

Christmas Day

10.00am - Christmas Day Service - bring a present to unwrap!

New Years Eve

11.30pm - Watchnight Service -see in the new year with friends.

Kemsing Singers



The Kemsing Singers

A programme of Christmas music and familiar Carols will be performed by the Kemsing Singers at their usual venue, St Edith's Hall, Kemsing on **Friday 16th and Saturday 17th December** at 7.30pm. Featuring concert harpist Keziah Thomas and including Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols', Howard Goodall's 'Lead Kindly Light and Adam's 'O Holy Night'. Directed by Sara Kemsley, accompanied by Peter Young. Tickets are £8 from 01959 523752 in aid of The Orpheus Centre.

Twinning Association

The Oxford - Neufchatel - Hardelot AGM will be held on **Monday 16th January** 2017 at 7.45pm in The Woodman PH. Do go along and share your ideas for future plans.

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 15th December** when Susie Harris will talk on '*Stories in Stained Glass*'

For further information see the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

Marathon runners wanted to raise money for Kent Association for the Blind



Kent Association for the Blind are looking for people to take part in the 2017 London Marathon and raise vital funds for the charity.

By taking part in this event you are doing something amazing for the charity; not only raising awareness of sight loss but also raising much needed funds for them to be able to continue their work supporting visually impaired people in the local area. The fundraising team is there to support you meet your pledge amount and can offer you fundraising ideas, personalised materials and resources. In the new year we will be organising a runners' night at our Sight Centre in Maidstone which is a great opportunity to learn more about our work and meet the other runners on Team KAB. Contact Amy on 01622 691357 or visit www.kab.org.uk Also have a look at the website at the 'The Virtual Cycle Ride' - a 24 hr Cycle ride on a route of your own choosing over as many days as you want.

Hospices of Hope Events



Ladies Lunch with Cheese Expert and Tasting

Date: **Monday 5th December** Time: 12:00

Venue: Alexander House Hotel, East Grinstead, RH10 4QD

Ticket: £29.00 per person to include an arrival drink, two course luncheon with a glass of wine & coffee with mince pies. Join us for a delightful luncheon with cheese expert William Cohen from Curd and Cure, who will be sharing his expertise and offering a tasting session with four different cheeses. Contact Amy on 01959525110 amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Heritage Centre Artist for December

Julian Cheswick



Julian says "I have always loved sketching and drawing. In the 1970's I started water colour painting - mainly landscapes and riverscapes. Pressure of work, raising a family and other distractions reduced my output to about three pictures over the next thirty years, until I joined the Otford Art Group. The medium I use now is gouache. I paint a range of architectural and mechanical subjects, but my current interest is in animals, birds and rural scenes".

Hospice in The Weald - Open Gardens 2017



Hospice in the Weald is inviting you to open your gates for a day to gardening enthusiasts and share the delights of your garden and raise money for a great cause at the same time.

The Hospice's Open Gardens brochure each year features a varied and enticing choice of gardens which this year brought in £25,000 for the charity. But the organisers would love to expand the range even further in 2017. "It's always exciting to see new gardens which the owners might never have considered putting on show," said Pam Coleman, who runs the hospice's Open Gardens scheme. "We'd love to be able to offer an even greater choice."

There's no limit to the style of garden that visitors might enjoy - small ones to inspire creativity, larger areas to explore, gardens for wildlife enthusiasts and interesting ideas for fruit and vegetable plots.

Pam says: "Gardens can be small, big or quirky as long as they are interesting and reflect the owners' passion for gardening. We would like to invite gardeners to contact us this autumn ready for the next brochure. Owners need not be nervous about taking part - many who have done so often tell us how much pleasure they get from the comments and interest of enthusiastic visitors.

"And there's the reward of knowing they are helping the Hospice's drive to raise £7million a year to keep our vital services free for the patients who need them."

For more details, call Pam Coleman on 01892 820502 or email pam.coleman@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Christmas & New Year Trains

Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December	No trains at Charing Cross, Waterloo East, St John's and New Cross. Only Hastings trains will be going to and from London Bridge. Trains are diverted to Victoria or Blackfriars and will be busier than usual. Trains will stop running earlier than usual so check before you travel
Christmas Day	No Southeastern trains will run.
Boxing Day	High speed services will run between Gravesend and St Pancras between 08:00 and 20:00. No other Southeastern services will run.
Tuesday 27 December	No trains at Charing X, Waterloo East, St John's and New Cross. Only Hastings trains will be going to and from London Bridge. There will be a very limited service to and from Cannon Street with only the Greenwich lines running. Trains are diverted to Victoria or Blackfriars and will be busier than usual.

Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 December	Saturday service applies. Check before travelling.
New Years Eve Saturday 31 December	Waterloo East will close at 23.45 and there are no Southeastern trains at Blackfriars on this day. There are no trains after 02.45 from Charing Cross, Waterloo East and Cannon Street. There will be extra late trains from Victoria. Check before travelling
Sunday 1 January - 2 January	There are no Southeastern services from Charing Cross, Waterloo East or Cannon Street. Only Hastings trains to and from London Bridge. There are some additional/diverted services to/from Victoria or Blackfriars. There are also some additional closures elsewhere on the Southeastern network on 1 January. Check before you travel.
Tuesday 3 January	Normal service.

Christmas tree recycling



After this year's festivities have ended, Sevenoaks District Council can collect and recycle your real Christmas tree for free throughout January. The Council will collect trees with a trunk of up to 90mm (3.5 inches) in diameter with its Garden Waste Collection Service until the end of January. Simply leave your tree by the boundary of your property, where you'd usually put your refuse and recycling sacks, by 7am on the day the Council's Garden Waste Collection service visits your road. The good news is that all the trees will be turned into environmentally-friendly compost. For this reason the Council cannot take trees that are decorated or in pots or stands. If your tree is too big for this service, you can take it to one of Kent County Council's Household Waste Recycling sites. Call KCC on 03000 417373 for locations and opening times or visit www.kent.gov.uk.

Christmas Refuse Collections



Monday 26th December - pick up Tuesday 27th December
 Tuesday 27th December - pick up Wednesday 28th December
 Wednesday 28th December - pick up Thursday 29th December
 Monday 2nd January - pick up Tuesday 3rd January
 Tuesday 3rd January - pick up Wednesday 4th January
 Wednesday 4th January - pick up Thursday 5th January

Chemist Rota



Otford Pharmacy will open again on Wednesday 28th December after Christmas. For other times the Chemist Rota is normally shown in the copy of the last Sevenoaks Chronicle issued before Christmas.

Otford Parish Council



The Parish Council office will be closed on Monday **19th December** and re-open after Christmas on **Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th December** and then close again until after the New Year on **Tuesday 3rd January 2017**. Full details will be posted on the office window.

Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach



Sevenoaks Citizens Advice hold a weekly surgery at the Heritage Centre in Otford every Tuesday from 10.00am till 12.00noon. 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. Someone will call you back. 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/16/02867 **Broughton Manor, High Street**

Construction of a new garden and machinery store to be sited on the original, now derelict greenhouse.

SE/16/02937 **The Crown Inn, 10 High Street**

Demolition of existing extensions and erection of a two storey rear extension to enlarge bar area to ground floor and office units to first floor.

SE/16/02905 **45 Sidney Gardens**

Construction of a summer house in the rear garden

SE/16/03267 **21 Tudor Drive**

Erection of a part two storey, part single storey rear extension with roof lights, first floor side extension and front porch.

SE/16/03301 **McDonalds, Old Otford Road**

Installation of a new freestanding 6.5m Totem sign

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

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

SE/16/03001 **Hopgarden Farm, Telston Lane**

Proposed new mobile home, touring caravan, utility building and installation of a septic tank.

SE/16/03340 **Merlins, 42 Hillydeal Road**

Replacement garage with room over

SE/16/03299 **2A The Butts**

Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of loft space into bedroom with en-suite bathroom with skylights to the East and West elevations and addition of window to the North elevation.

b. Results Received

SE/16/02313 **Hillway, Pilgrims Way East**

Change of existing ground level

Allowed

SE/16/02440 **12 Willow Park**

Erection of a single storey rear extension. Conversion of the existing garage to form a habitable space with enlarged utility area.

Allowed

SE/16/02642 **Willow House, Sevenoaks Road**

Demolition of existing side extension. Construction of a 2 storey side extension. Single storey rear extension. Construction of living accommodation in roof space.

Allowed

SE/16/02359 **Land north of 28 Well Road**

Erection of a new house with access via a new crossover from Bubblestone Road

Allowed

SE/16/02806 **28 Warham Road**

Replace existing glass roof to conservatory with a pitched and tiled roof to match existing property with roof lights.

Allowed

SE/16/02877 **38 Pilgrims Way East**

Demolition of existing front/side ground floor extension and rear dormer and erection of a part single and part two storey front extension and single storey side extension and three roof lights to rear

Allowed

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the February Newsletter will be Wednesday 18th January 2017

