

Otford Parish Council
December / January Newsletter 2017/18



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 **11th December** and **8th January** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

From the Chairman: Christmas is coming

One of the frustrating things about writing this monthly item for the Newsletter is the time delay between my writing the words and you reading them. It is particularly acute over Christmas: I am writing this in mid-November, you will get to read it in early December - and then the next newsletter will not appear for two months! And so much is happening over this period.



Over the next two months there will be two meetings of the full Council, four Planning Committee meetings, two meetings of the Finance and General Purposes committee and one meeting each for Amenities and for Recreation and Environment. You can find a full list of the dates on the Otford Parish website (currently <http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil/>) or from the Parish Office. It is not just the councillors who come to these meetings, they also involve our Clerk Sharon Palmer, and assistant clerk Sue Stephenson in preparation, minuting and dealing with the numerous actions. Remember, that all meetings are open to the public (you!) and that there is a ten-minute public forum for you at the start of every meeting. You are very welcome to come.



Many of you will have come to the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 12th November. I personally found all aspects of the service most moving, in particular the Act of Remembrance around the Village War

Memorial. The perfect weather certainly helped but I will always recall the trumpeter Sam Lewis who added significantly to the service. My thanks to all who participated.

By the time you read this, Otford Village Society will have held its Community Party. It is not until 25th November, so I cannot report on it, except to say that I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

By the time you read this, the Community Meeting to discuss the Otford Neighbourhood Plan will either be hours away - or will have happened! I hope you were able to attend this important meeting, to support the proposal to develop the plan and to give your initial views. If you missed it, then we still need your ideas over the weeks and months to come. Neighbourhood plans typically take two years to develop and get agreement and we need your involvement every step of the way. As I keep repeating, it is **your** plan: we need your input and commitment. The Steering Group will be keeping you in touch through this newsletter, social media and subsequent consultations. Please keep involved. It only remains for me to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



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.

Tree of Light



The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 15th December** at 7.00pm in St Bartholomew's Church and 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.

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.



Guide Christmas Post Box



Stamps for the Girlguiding Otford's Christmas Post service go on sale on **Tuesday 28th November** for the 35th year running and will be available until **Tuesday 19th December**. The special charity post service, which is one of the longest running in the country, delivers Christmas cards with the schemes special stamps to addresses in Otford Village. Stamps cost **25p** and are available to purchase in Otford Library during normal opening hours or in the Parish Council office every weekday morning. Christmas cards can be posted in the special post boxes located in the same places. Otford's Brownies and Guides will collect, sort, frank and then deliver the cards over the two weekends before Christmas. This year the money raised from the sale of the stamps will be divided between Dreamflight, a charity taking seriously ill or disabled children on holidays of a lifetime, and the Kent Wildlife Trust. Please support them by purchasing the special stamps and posting your cards early. Thank you

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 8.00am - 12.30pm

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 **Friday 1st December** at 7.00pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The cost will be £40. Then on **Friday 8th December** at 7.00pm she will be holding a Table and Mantle arrangement workshop. Cost again is £40. 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.



Otford Primary School PTFA Christmas Bazaar

On **Saturday 2nd December** between 12noon and 3pm Otford Primary School will be holding its Christmas Bazaar. There will be lots of fun things to enjoy including an outdoor Christmas market, a Winter Wonderland Grotto, festive mulled wine and hot chocolate as well as other light refreshments, face painting, silent auction, a raffle and lots of games for the children to play. They look forward to seeing you there. Please go along and support the school.

St Bartholomew's Church Christmas Services



Sunday 3rd December

4.00pm - Christingle

6.30pm - Candlelit Advent Carol Service

Sunday 17th December

10am - YPF Christmas presentation and Sunday Club Nativity Play

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

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - All Together Christmas Worship

St Bartholomew's Church Choir Concert



St Bartholomew's Choir's Annual Christmas concert, will take place in the church on **Sunday 10th December** at 7.00 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 / Events



Saturday 9th December

3.30pm - 5.30pm - 'Who let the Dad's out' - for dads, granddads, uncles and male carers with kids under 10yrs.

Sunday 17th 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



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 25th December - pick up Saturday 23rd December
Tuesday 26th December - pick up Wednesday 27th December
Wednesday 27th December - pick up Thursday 28th December
Thursday 28th December - pick up Friday 29th December
Friday 29th December - pick up Saturday 30th December
Monday 1st January - pick up Tuesday 2nd January
Tuesday 2nd January - pick up Wednesday 3rd January
Wednesday 3rd January - pick up Thursday 4th January
Thursday 4th January - pick up Friday 5th January
Friday 5th January - pick up Saturday 6th January
Monday 8th January - Normal service resumes
The same dates apply to Green Garden Waste Collections

Chemist Rota



Otford Pharmacy will open again on Wednesday 27th 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 from Tuesday **19th December** and re-open after Christmas on **Wednesday 27th** and then close again until after the New Year until **Tuesday 2nd January 2018**. Full details will be posted on the office window.



Speedwatch volunteers

The Parish Council are looking to restart our Speedwatch Team operations and are looking to create a list of willing volunteers and a **co-ordinator** to maintain the list and call out the volunteers for sessions. If you would be interested in this role or would just like to go on the list of volunteers please contact the office either by phone or e-mail. Your name, contact number/ e-mail is required and whether you are available mornings/afternoons or evenings.



Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 14th December** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold their Birthday/Christmas party with the magician Robert Pound. The first visit is free. For more details or please contact the Secretary Sharna Peyto on 07860 463656.

Otford Evening WI

The next meeting of the Otford Evening WI will be held on **Thursday 14th December** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall. They are looking forward to 'A Good Laugh' with their speaker Marianne Martin who will get them in the Christmas spirit with the help of refreshments and a drop of something!



The first meeting of 2018 will take place on **11th January** when Paul Beard will talk about the work of the Barnardo's Children Charity. Subscriptions will also be due at the meeting. If further information is required, please contact their President on 01959 524831.

Otford Library News



- IT help is now available on Tuesdays 10.00am-12.00pm (instead of Mondays) and Saturdays 10.00-12.00pm.
- It is essential to make an advance booking for this either by phoning 03000 41 31 31 and asking to be put through to Otford library or by coming into the library to book an appointment. The library has free public Wi-Fi. When people join the library, they can bring their iPad/tablet or laptop, are able to connect to the internet and get help from a volunteer. Alternatively, customers are welcome to use one of the public computers. There is no charge for this service.

- Talk time, every Monday 11.30-12.30am. All welcome to join, sit in the library for tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat. We would love to see some new faces.
- Baby Bounce and rhyme time, every Monday 11.00-11.30am throughout the year. No need to book and this is a free activity.

Otford & District Historical Society



The next meetings of the 2017/18 Winter programme will be on **Wednesday 13th December** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when the AGM will be held with mulled wine followed by a selection of films of Otford (the films date from the 1940s and 1950s and will include some kindly made available by Screen Archive South East). Adult subscription is £10. No charge for under 16's and visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting. The

following meeting will take place on **Wednesday 17th January** when Ed Thompson will talk about *'Bat & Ball - Sevenoaks first Railway Station'*.

1940s Society

The next meeting of the 1940s Society will take place on **Friday 28th January** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm when the talk is about the history and restoration of the paddle steamer *'Medway Queen'* by Pat and Mark Bathurst of the Medway Queen Preservation Society. The talk this evening will explore the history of this unique vessel. Further details on 07927 748773. Admission is £3.

Otford Twinning Association



The Otford-Neufchâtel - Hardelot Twinning Association AGM will be held on **Monday 15th January** 2018 at 7.30pm at the Woodman PH, Otford to report on activities of 2017 and to share their plans with you for 2018. They look forward to seeing you, both past, present and future members.

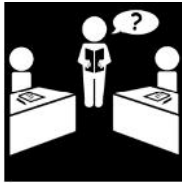
Kemsing Singers



A reminder to readers that The Kemsing Singers are performing their popular Christmas Concert at their usual venue, St Edith's Hall, Kemsing at 7.30pm on the nights of **15th and 16th December**. It will include Christmas songs and carols, some new and some well known, and the audience will have the opportunity to join in Carols. An evening not to be missed which will help to put you in the Christmas spirit. The concerts this

year are in aid of Age UK Tickets still at £8 per head, children are free of charge.. Available from the Box office 01959 523752.

Otford Gardeners' Society



The Quiz and Fun Night on **Tuesday 5th December** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall is a social evening with a warm up quiz to break the ice, followed by a table quiz with prizes for the winners. Maximum team size is 6 people. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

First Steps

First Steps has returned to Otford Methodist Church Hall. This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers is always pleased to welcome new members. It is run by the Methodist and St Bartholomew's Church and includes the opportunity for a chat, refreshment and, also a short bible story, with singing and craft activities for the children. Meeting at 9.30am to 11.30am on alternate Wednesdays during term time only. The next meetings are **13th December and 10th and 24th January**. Contact Hazel Terry on 01959 523047 for more details.

Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach



The next surgery will take place on **Tuesday 5th December** and between 10am and 12 noon. Drop in appointments may be available on the day. Ring 01732 440488 and leave a message at any time.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group

On **Thursday 7th December** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a talk by John Buckingham on '*New Zealand - Birds and natural history endemics*'. Then on **Thursday 4th January** Robert Canis will give a talk on '*The best of the Year - finest images of nature he has taken*'. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.

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 18th January** when Frank Woodgate will talk about '*John Singer Sargent- much more than a 'Modern Van Dyke*'. Sargent was the great society painter at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries but he was much more than that. As well as portraits the lecture includes examples of his landscapes inspired by the Impressionists, his work as a

war artist in WW1 and his beautiful and delicate watercolours. See the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

Parkinson's Sevenoaks Branch

The branch, formed in 1991, has run weekly exercise classes for people with Parkinson's for more than 20 years and for the last three years these have been held in the Otford Methodist Church Hall. Two one hourly sessions are held on **Thursdays** - the first class at 2.00pm is for the less able participant with many exercises done sitting in a chair - the second class at 3.00pm is for the more able. The instructor is a qualified physiotherapist. A small charge of £4 is made which includes tea and biscuits after each session. Contact for more information is jacquelinehart217@gmail.com or 01732 360512. (Please note there will be no classes on 28th December)

Fair Feast 2018

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) is **Tuesday 13 February**. It may seem to be a long way away, but by the time that you receive the *next* newsletter it might be less than a fortnight. So please note the date and, from 7.30 - 9.30pm on that day, in the Methodist Church hall, there will be a quiz, pancakes and hot and cold drinks, all for £7, all of which will go to help one of the world's poorest communities, details of which will be available on the night. To reserve a place or places (tables seat 8 people), from now on please contact Andy Collings (01959 524840, Ac04otford@btinternet.com). Payment may be made before or on the day.

Request for information

Information is being requested on the old Otford 'lido' swimming pool.

Do you remember it, have you swam in it, and any photographs would be gratefully received. Please contact Rod Shelton on 01959 523371 or rodshelton@greenbee.net

Hospices of Hope Events



hospices of hope
making every day count
for terminally ill children and adults in
Kent and surrounding counties

Christmas Crafts Evening

Bessels Green Baptist Church Hall Kent TN13 2PS

Saturday 2nd December

19.00 to 22.00 £15 per person to include refreshments and at least 3 crafts

Come and try your hand at making Christmas presents and decorations, whilst chilling out with a glass of mulled wine and delicious Christmas nibbles. All ages welcome!

Heritage Centre artist for Dec & Jan



The Heritage Centre Artist for the next few months is Betty Medhurst. Betty says "I was encouraged by the U3A to take up painting again having enjoyed it at school. As I progressed I then joined the Otford Art Group, where I enjoy the atmosphere and the help and encouragement I receive from other members. My favourite medium is water colour. I will attempt any subject but my preferences are portrait and landscape.

Volunteer Drivers

DIAL 2 DRIVE

Do you own a car? Could you take an elderly/disabled person to a medical appointment or shopping just once a week? Dial 2 Drive need volunteer drivers to cope with the increasing number of passengers who wish to use this service. The role is flexible could be once a month or daily depending on the time the driver can offer. In the last six months drivers completed over £5,320 journeys across Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge. Please contact them on 0300 777 1200 or driving@imago.community if you would like to help.

Christmas & New Year Trains

From **Saturday 23rd December** until **Monday 1st January 2018** there will be changes to rail services across London and the South-East while Network Rail continues to transform north-south travel through London as part of the Thameslink programme.

23rd Dec - 1st January	Southeastern services will not run to or from Cannon Street, Charing Cross, Waterloo East, London Bridge, Deptford, Greenwich, Maze Hill, Westcombe Park, New Cross and St Johns. Thameslink services will not run through Central London. Trains will be terminating at Blackfriars, Victoria or London Bridge (from the south) and St Pancras Int (from the north). There will be no Thameslink service at either City or Thameslink or Farringdon.
Christmas Day	No Southeastern / Thameslink/Gatwick Express and Southern trains will run.
Boxing Day	No Southeastern / Thameslink / Gatwick Express and Southern trains services will run.
Wednesday 27 December - Friday 29th	No trains at Cannon Street, Charing X, Waterloo East, London Bridge, City Thameslink & Farringdon.

	Blackfriars, Victoria, Waterloo, St Pancras open - check revised timetable
Saturday 30th to Monday 1st January	No trains at Blackfriars, Cannon Street, Charing X, Waterloo East, London Bridge (Southeastern), City Thameslink & Farringdon. London Bridge (Southern & Thameslink), St Pancras, Victoria and Waterloo open - check revised timetable

Planning



The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council. Contact the Parish Clerk or SDC on 01732 227000.

New applications

SE/17/03053 78 Evelyn Road

Erection of a single storey side and rear extension with rooflights. Raising the roof, rear and front dormers and hip to gables to form rooms in roof.

SE/17/03229 55 Sidney Gardens

Demolition of rear extension and part side extensions, front porch and chimney. Erection of a two-storey rear extension and front porch. Reconstruction of existing single storey side extension. Raising the roof to convert the existing roof space into additional accommodation with rooflights and dormers to front and side. Internal alterations. Erection of a detached garden room.

SE/17/03306 12 Orchard Road

Erection of a two-storey side, single storey front and rear extensions. Landscaping work.

Results Received

SE/17/02607 The Crown Inn, High Street

Erection of a single storey rear glass seating area extension *Allowed*

SE/17/02186 Martins, Shoreham Road

Proposed single storey side extension and external alterations *Allowed*

SE/17/02612 42 Well Road

Demolition of existing attached garage. Erection of single storey side extension with overhang to front and side. *Allowed*

SE/17/02698 35 Pilgrims Way West

Partial demolition of the site. Erection of a side/rear extension with rooflight *Allowed*

SE/17/02685 36 High Street

Demolition and replacement of existing conservatory with new lean-to roof. Erection of a two-storey rear extension with hipped gable roof. Installation of rooflight. *Allowed*

SE/17/02807 Mad Hatters, 8, High Street

Part change of use of ground floor from A1 to mixed use A1 and C3 residential and change of first floor to C3 residential use. Demolition of existing outbuilding to facilitate the erection of a part single, part double storey side/rear extension and side dormer. *Allowed*

SE/17/02752 Burfield, Pilgrims Way East

Erection of a double storey side extension with a dormer to the rear and rooflights to the front. *Allowed*

SE/17/02885 10 Shinecroft, Rye Lane

Minor material amendment to SE/17/01887 for the erection of a first-floor side extension creating 2 new dormers. Extension to existing outbuilding and relocating an existing garage to show single storey porch extension on front elevation and provision of proportionate flat roof dormer to serve attic space. *Refused*

Trees

SE/17/03219 21 High Street

T1 Willow, Eastern side of Otford Pond - Pollard the tree at the union at approx 20ft.

SE/17/03411 Bubblestone House, The Green

T1 Horse Chestnut - crown reduce to previous pruning points and crown lift approx. 1.5m. T2 Horse Chestnut - crown reduce whole crown by approx. 2m, crown lift by approx. 1.5m.

SE/17/03454 The Bull PH, 17 High Street

Works to Sycamore and Ash tree.

SE/17/03455 5 Till Close

T1 Mature Copper Beech - prune/remove lower branches to give ground clearance of approx 3.5 m. T2 Ash - dead-wooding.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the February newsletter is **Weds 17th January**

The Chairman, Parish Councillors, Clerk and Assistant Clerk wish you all a very happy, restful, and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

