

Otford Parish Council

July / August Newsletter 2015

No 244

Twinned with Neufchatel-Hardelot

Clerk: Mrs. S. Palmer

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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 **13th July** and **10th August** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

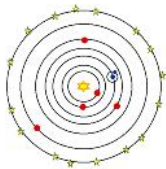
There is a CAB Surgery in Parish Council offices between 10am and 12 noon every Tuesday

Chairman's Report



For those of you who shop at Sainsbury's, you might have noticed that their recycling bins at the bottle bank have changed. This has resulted in SDC no longer having the contract to remove them and as a consequence do not have the resultant income that was generated - which was used to offset your council tax - although at the moment they still operate the Tesco site, this could also change. It would therefore be much appreciated and beneficial to yourselves if you used the recycling centre in Otford car park, from which SDC do receive an income. If the bins there fill up quicker as a result, we will make arrangements for them to be emptied sooner.

I also understand that as from mid-July SDC will be providing a new version of the white (clear) recycling bags. There will be 30 bags/roll instead of the current 20 and the range of "recyclables" will also increase so please read the accompanying leaflet, or instructions on the bags.



Those of you that use the recreation ground might have noticed that the orbits on the millennium solar system model have now been mowed and will be kept mowed until Winter sets in. We are also trying to keep the labyrinth mowed on Palace Field. If you have not visited either site, now is the opportunity to do so.

When I last spoke with the Kent Highways Manager for the District, we were talking generally about management and resources - his view was that in today's world it's not so much about project, staff or fiscal management, but more about managing people's expectations - especially the general public. All around us change is occurring. We see it on our national news and in our local papers. It is an inevitable sign of moving forward into any new period. We may be a small village tucked away in a beautiful valley but we are not immune to changes which occur. How those changes may affect us is important though.



You have a parish council in Otford, made up of 11 residents, whose purpose is to represent our wider community and do everything possible to ensure that our lives are not adversely affected whether it is from natural causes, like flood, storm or drought, or from man-made causes like traffic congestion or dog fouling. Mundane matters, like a blocked public toilet can be as important as fighting a major development being proposed on our doorstep. The role of parish councillors is varied and requires a lot of multi-tasking.

If you don't wish to become a councillor but have skills and interests that you think might be useful for any projects that the Parish Council may have going forward perhaps you would consider joining a volunteer database for the Parish Council. If you would be prepared to possibly give an hour or so on an ad hoc basis we would love to hear from you.



Planning to protect our village against threats from outside our boundaries is however an ever present role for a parish council. In Otford we are, by our very location, so close to London and the Sevenoaks conurbation that we are in a very vulnerable position. We cannot afford to be complacent and simply respond to problems as they occur. By that time it can often be too late to take effective action. We need to be proactive not reactive, to look ahead and plan for the future. We did this with the Parish Plan five years ago and the achievement of so many of the plans objectives has visibly created an improvement in people's lives. Now another period lies ahead of us and we must look to see in what areas we will be most vulnerable to the effects that these may bring.



The threat of increasing traffic levels will definitely become one of our major future battlegrounds. The Fort Halstead development, the completion of Rye Meadows (only half its housing quota has been completed) and the plans for a major international theme park to the east of Dartford, will all have a direct impact upon us. So what action should we take? What action can we take? What action will we be allowed to take? What would you like to see done? How do you see the future of Otford? All these questions need answering, so if you can help, please pass your ideas to the office for us to take forward.



Please note that due to an ongoing problem with vandalism in the **Children's Play Area** on the High Street Recreation Ground it will now be locked overnight at approximately **7pm** and be re-opened before **8am**.



I understand that this report will cover July and August, so have a good break and if you are fortunate enough to be able to have a holiday, spare a thought for those less fortunate who have to stay at home or work through the holiday season.



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.

Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 1st September** when David Fitton MBE will talk about '*A Garden for all Seasons*'. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net

Walmer Castle & Gardens



Otford Gardeners' Society are taking a coach party to Walmer Castle and Gardens on **Saturday 1st August**. It is open to non-members. The coach will leave Otford at 9am and will return at around 6pm. The price of the visit is £21.50 for an adult and there are reduced prices for concessions and English Heritage members. For full details, telephone

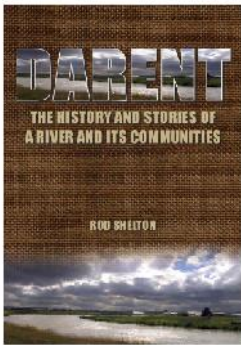
Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

Otford Primary School Fete



The Otford Primary School Fete will take place on **Saturday 4th July** between 12 noon and 3pm. There are various stalls, tea and cakes, beer tent, strawberries, tombola, raffle, silent auction, games and inflatables as well as performances and displays by the children. It will be taking place on the school field and inside the school. Admission is £1 for adults and free for children.

New Book about Us



A new book has just come out, *Darent*, which has a whole, colourful chapter about Otford. It recounts the earliest history of the village and tells the stories of each of our local houses of note. Written by local author, Rod Shelton, it is full of photos and many anecdotal stories about our residents in former times. The book is a compendium of histories and stories about every one of the Darent villages, from Westerham, right up to Dartford. At 190 pages long, it tells about the origins of the area as well as its wildlife and flora. And if you should want to find out about Romans, watermills, oast

houses and gunpowder - that's all in there too. You can read about it more fully online at www.Darent.co.uk and purchase a copy. Alternatively you will find it on sale at the new Otford Emporium in the High Street or at the Sevenoaks Bookshop.

Sevenoaks Camera Clubs Summer Exhibition



The Sevenoaks Camera Club is pleased to announce that an exhibition of printed images will be held at the Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope Gallery (Sevenoaks library) from **16th July to 1st August**. This will feature a wide range of work from the club's many talented photographers encompassing wildlife, landscapes, street photography and more. The exhibition is free to visit and there will be information about the club if anyone is thinking about becoming a member. You can also vote for your favourite image.

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Otford Primary School Reunion

The 10th Reunion will be held on **Saturday 29th August** between 11.30am to 4pm at The Rising Sun PH, Twitton. All former pupils and teacher are most welcome to attend this enjoyable gathering. Over 100 have attended in the past. Please ring Nick Staples to book your buffet lunch (£6) or for more information on 01732 843116.

Otford Society Garden Party



The Society's ever-popular Summer Garden Party will this year take place on **Saturday 18th July** between 6pm and 8pm. Once again we will be enjoying the kind hospitality of Russell House School (opposite Otford Station), which not only offers a peaceful setting in which members can socialise, but also an extensive play area where members' children can have fun. Tickets are on sale now at the Otford Parish Council office, Yvonne's Newsagent in Telston Lane, and the Otford Emporium by the duck pond, costing £6 per adult or £3 per child (6 to 16) with infants free. The price includes one free glass of wine or soft drink, and complimentary canapés. There will be a raffle with all proceeds donated to Kent Air Ambulance. In recognition of the Society's on-going support, Kent Air Ambulance has donated a number of raffle prizes, as well as the opportunity for a group of six lucky people to visit its base of operations, which will be auctioned. Finally, for those who missed our new games at the fête, there'll be another chance to play Splat the Rat and Chuck a Duck!

Otford Oast WI

The next meetings will be on **Thursday 16th July** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will learn from Elaine about 'Shabby to Chic' furniture. Then on **20th August** they will be holding a Cream Tea. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Barbara Singleton Green on 01959 525515 for more details

Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning



The next Social Gathering is at the Woodman on **Monday 20th July** from 7.45pm. We have booked a coach on **Saturday 26th September** leaving Otford Pond at 6.30am, returning at 8pm, for a day trip to Hardelot. There will be a visit to the local biscuit factory, a guided historical walk round Hardelot, activities for children and if you have any special requests please let me know. Tickets are £35 per adult and free for children of School age or younger (plus £5 per adult, £10 per family, if you are not already a member of the Twinning Association). Please let me know that you are interested by email (kl@sevmail.co.uk) or by telephone at the Parish Council Office (524808) as soon as possible and I will send the application form. Looking forward to seeing you.

Otford Evening WI

The next meetings will be on **Thursday 9th July** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. When they will hear from Sara-Jane Ladbrook Hutt about '*Being a Mudlark on the Thames*'. With a collection of finds and a quiz to guess what they are. Then on **13th August** they will hear from Sheila Boyd about '*Queen Victoria's Dreadful Uncles*'. Contact Christine Masson on 01959 522637 for more details.

Front Garden Competition



The Otford Gardeners' Society, on behalf of the Parish Council, will again be organising the Annual Otford Front Garden competition. Preliminary judging will be taking place during July & August when committee members will be walking around the village taking notes. The competition will again be based on the front gardens that would take the eye of a stranger to the village, without him or her having to look over or around a hedge, wall or fence.

Otford Library - Craft Session

There will be a Free Craft session in Otford Library on **Saturday 11th July** between 10am and 12 noon. Ring Angela on 01959 522488 to secure a place.

Summer Play Day



There will be a Summer play day organised by Sevenoaks District Council on the High Street Recreation Ground. On **Tuesday 28th July** between 10am and 2pm. Go along and enjoy the fun.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 25th July** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when there will be an all day workshop with Mary Gamester on '*Machine 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.

King Lear at White Rock



Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society presents the Bard's great tragedy King Lear in the open air. Bring warm clothing and rugs or low-backed folding chairs.

Bar and snacks available. At the White Rock Inn at Underriver on **1st - 5th July**. Tickets £12 in advance, £15 on door (£5 children and students) from Sevenoaks Festival Box office 01732 450175 www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk or

01732 833112 www.thewhiterockinn.co.uk

Rubbish

If you see litter outside your house, please pick it up don't just leave it for somebody else. Let's try and make our village litter free



Heritage Centre Artist for July / August



The artist for July & August is James Morton - Robertson with a picture of Dahlias painted in oils on canvas. James trained as an electronics engineer and although interested in art did not think that he could paint himself. After retiring, he was invited to join the Otford Art Group and found that he enjoyed creating pictures in various media with a preference for oils. His subjects are extremely varied ranging from local scenes to images from his travels and for the first time, flowers, thus the dahlias.

Mobile Police Station



There will be a mobile police station visiting Sainsbury's car park fortnightly between 4.40pm to 5.30pm for residents to discuss any policing issues and get crime prevention advice.

This next dates are **13th and 27th July**. If you want to report a non-urgent crime or contact your local officer please call 101.

Annie - The Musical Summer School



Two fun filled days of singing, dancing and acting, finishing with a performance of Annie the Musical for family and friends.

For children aged 6 - 12 years on **Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th August** between 10am and 4pm at the Bessels Green Baptist

Church, Sevenoaks. Cost is £65 for the two day course. Please e-mail sophie.brooke-ford@hotmail.co.uk for more information and to reserve a place.

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/15/01372 **7 Greenhill Road**

Construction of a new detached dwelling accessed from Greenhill Road comprising subdivision of 7 Greenhill Road plot.

SE/15/01452 **The Grange, High Street**

Partial demolition of existing dilapidated barn and erection of replacement barn to be used as a residential annexe to The Grange.

Removal of existing timber gates, to be replaced with new metal gate and railing, set back to create space to allow a car to pull into the drive safely. Erection of wall and new timber clad three-bay garage barn.

SE/15/01276 **10 Shinecroft, Rye Lane**

Two storey front, first floor side and single storey rear extension, alteration to fenestration. Comprehensive property refurbishment. Repositioning of garage. Extension of outbuilding.

SE/14/04015 **14B Hillydeal Road**

Demolish flat roof side extension and remove pitched roof of remaining building. Rebuild side extension and raise walls of the whole building and build new pitched roof to create first floor

bedroom accommodation. Changes to fenestration. Erection of detached garage. This proposal also includes the erection of a detached garage.

SE/15/01580 **Mayola, Station Road**

Erection of detached two storey gym and workshop building

SE/15/01452 **The Grange, High Street**

Partial demolition of existing dilapidated barn, and erection of replacement barn to be used as a residential annexe to The Grange. Removal of existing timber gates, to be replaced with new metal gate and railing, set back to create space to allow a car to pull into the drive safely. Erection of wall and new timber clad three-bay garage barn.

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b. Results Received

SE/15/03604 **Willoughby Cottage, 10 Coombe Road**

Removal of condition 3 (obscure glass on the first floor window(s) on the South/West elevation) and minor material amendment to SE/13/03338 for the demolition of front bay window and part demolition to rear utility room; extension of roof height to facilitate habitable rooms in roof space to include six velux windows and two dormer windows with balconies on rear elevation; alteration to front porch on south elevation to include pitched roof to porch and dining room and alterations to external fenestration - to show installation of a velux roof window in the east facing pitch of the front gable. *Allowed*

SE/15/00881 **Land north of Pilgrims Oasts, Station Road**

Construction of a 10 room care home with three staff apartments *Refused*

SE/15/01039 **Units 1 to 3, Block 4, Vestry Road**

Three mounted signs of fascia *Allowed*

SE/15/00839 **The Horns, High Street**

Change of use, conversion and refurbishment of Public House to 2 three bedroom dwellings to include demolition of single storey existing rear extension and erection of front/side and rear single storey extensions. Demolition of free standing garage and erection of 2 shed and log stores, rear car parking, hard and soft landscaping and association works. *Allowed*

d. Trees

SE/15/01500 **18 High Street**

Various work to trees in a Conservation Area

SE/15/01558 **Chantry Cottage, The Green**

Reduce crown of Eucalyptus by 30% removing 3-4m of growth all over.

Noticeboards

As you might have noticed we have new noticeboards all around the village. If you place items on them please use drawing pins, not staples and then when your event has finished, please remove them. Keep the new boards tidy. Thank you.

Parish Councillors Contact Details

<u>Chairman</u>		
John Edwards-Winser	Oastbrook, Telston Lane	522503
<u>Councillors</u>		
Mrs. Mary Evans	14 Tudor Crescent	mary.a.evans@btinternet.com
Nick Fothergill	7 Darnets Field	524120
Mrs. Jackie Howe	33 Pilgrims Way West	525434
Mrs. H. Jane Lawrey	23 Tudor Crescent	522360
Howard Leicester	Albany, Shoreham Road	howard_leicester@btconnect.com
Irene Roy	Castle House, Sevenoaks Rd	ireneroyatcastle@gmail.com
Jon Verrall	24 Pilgrims Way East	jon.verrall5@btinternet.com
Martin J. Whitehead	19 Coombe Road	524088

Rubbish and Garden Bags

Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £13.50 for 25. 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 September Newsletter will Friday 21st August

WHATEVER THE WEATHER JUST RELAX

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

