

Otford Parish Council

March Newsletter 2016

No 250

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 **14th March** and **11th April** 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



Just to remind residents that shortly the willow tree on the Pond will be removed. It is hoped that it will not cause too much inconvenience whilst the tree surgeons do their work. It will be missed, but the new one that was planted is growing well and will soon have the space to expand.



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.

Clean for The Queen Campaign



CLEAN FOR
THE QUEEN

As part of the celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday, the Parish Council will be participating in the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. As Otford residents we would like to encourage you to contribute and you will be able to support the campaign in different ways. This has the added bonus of helping to improve our local environment and be of benefit to all who enjoy our lovely village. The weekend of 'Clean for the Queen' has been set nationally for **March 4th - 6th**

and through both village organisations and as individuals we would like to urge members of the community to take part in any of the following ways:

- 1 Ensure that the area immediately around your home is clear of litter, winter debris and weeds, and that any house name and number is clearly visible, and any road names near you are clean.
- 2 Through any participating village organisation to which you belong, join in with their spring cleaning around the village.
- 3 If you have a dog, ensuring that when you walk it you clear up after it, disposing of the excrement appropriately. You should of course anyhow be doing this every time you walk your dog to avoid the risk of spreading disease.

A poster competition will also be taking place in our primary schools. We will be advertising the campaign around the village using the posters designed by the children and would really appreciate your support in whatever way, great or small. Thank you, Mary Evans, Chairman Recreation and Environment committee

St Bartholomew's Church

Antique & Collectables Valuation Day



On **Saturday 12th March** between 10am and 2.30pm St Bart's Church will be hosting an Antiques and Collectables Valuation Day in the Church Hall on the High Street with Catherine Southon (as seen on BBC Bargain Hunt) Auctioneers and Valuers. The event is to raise money for the church's reordering and redecoration appeal. A £5 donation for the 1st item and £2.50 for a maximum of 2 other items will be asked. Why not have a look in your attic and go along and find out if you have a hidden gem you never knew about. Refreshments will be served all day.



Then on Easter **Monday 28th March** St Bartholomew's will be holding an Easter Flowers Gift Day from 12 noon onwards. Come along and look at the beautiful Easter flower arrangements and Easter Gardens created by young people.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers



The Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016 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 3rd 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. Thank you. Could you help us to keep our popular over-subscribed units running? All of our units are full with long waiting lists but our Rainbow and Senior Section units are on the verge of closure due to the current leaders stepping down at Easter. If you would like to help local girls and young women reach their full potential we would love to hear from you.

If you are female, aged 18 or over and would like to find out more 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 and most importantly great fun!

Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 1st March** when there will be an 'Evening with Steve Bradley (from BBC Radio Kent Gardening) - your gardening questions answered'. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

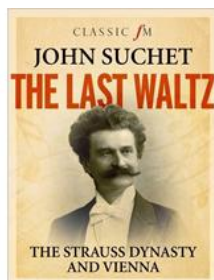
The Spring Show



The Spring Show is the first show of the year and the displays will include spring bulbs and flowers, floral arrangements, preserves and cookery and photographic classes. The show takes place on **Saturday 2nd April** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall and opens to the public at 2.15pm. Admission is 50p. Teas will be served until 4pm.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 16th March** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Professor Peter Wadhams will talk about '*The Holy Shroud*'. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Adult subscriptions are £8 per year, joint/family £14 and visitors are welcome at each lecture for £3.



An extra meeting of the Otford & District Historical Society will take place on **Saturday 2nd April** at 6pm in St Bartholomew's Church. After his sell out talk back in 2013 John Suchet presenter of Classic FM's flagship morning programme and formerly one of the country's best loved television newscasters is returning to give a talk on '*The Last Waltz - The Strauss Dynasty*'. Copies of his book '*The Last Waltz: The Strauss Dynasty and Vienna*' will be available to be signed by him on the night. Tickets are £10 and available from Sevenoaks Bookshop, Otford Parish Council offices and Otford Library.

Watercolour Painting Classes



Popular Artist and qualified teacher Sue Bradley is holding watercolour painting classes in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Wednesdays between 9.30am and 11.30am until 9th March. The classes are £14 for 2 hrs. Classes are aimed at beginners and improvers in watercolour technique. For booking and enquiries please contact suebradley5@sky.com or call 07715 663993.

Otford Library Craft Sessions



There will be **FREE** craft sessions at Otford Library on Saturdays **19th March and 16th April** from 10am to 12 noon. Children must be accompanied by an adult, Book to ensure a place on 03000 413131.

Baby Bounce and Rhyme takes place at Otford Library on Monday mornings between 11am and 11.30am and on Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 10am. Also Storytime takes place on Tuesday between 2pm and 2.30pm (term time only).

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 17th March** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. This month there will be a demonstration by 'Cakecraft World making roses'. They will also have goods for sale. A crèche is available and the first visit is free. For more details or if you wish to join please contact the Secretary Barbara Singleton-Green on 01959 525515.

Otford Evening WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10th March** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall. This month's speaker is Joe Mendell who will talk about 'Mark Twain Live' -It should be interesting if rumours of his death actually were greatly exaggerated.If you would like to come along please contact their President on 01959 524831 for more information.

Otford Players - Appeal for new members



Otford Players has been entertaining Otford (and beyond) since 1975. However, we now find ourselves struggling to find enough people to get involved in the two productions a year that we traditionally produce.

One of the biggest challenges is finding directors. This is a demanding and very satisfying role but our current directors need a well-deserved break. However, for anyone interested in having a go at directing there is plenty of help and support available.

Our current members are a mixture of young and not so young (!), experienced in drama and with no experience at all, introverts and extroverts, artistic and logical. Whatever your skill set we will welcome you with open arms.

The type of shows we have produced over the years come from every corner of the performing arts. Farce, Drama, Music Hall, Comedy, Variety, Song & Dance to name a few. There is always a need for actors, back stage crew, front of house crew, costume makers and tea makers!

What have you got to lose by giving us a try? We are going to organise a get-together somewhere in Otford, probably in February. All we need to know is how big an area to book (!), so have a look at our website and get a feeling for what we do and then contact us in any of the following ways if you would like to come and join us for a drink or two - on us! Looking forward to meeting you.

On Line: www.otfordplayers.otford.info /Email: otfordplayers@otford.net

Facebook: otfordplayers / Twitter: @otfordplayers / Phone: 01959 525404

Kemsing Singers Have a Go Workshop



Enjoy singing but don't get the time? Thinking of joining a choir but not sure which? Why not go along to the Kemsing Singers Workshop Day on **Saturday 19th March** at St Bartholomew's Church Centre between 10.30am and 3.30pm. They will be singing Vivaldi's wonderful Gloria in D with some of Mozart Mass in C, with some French chansons thrown in. They have fun while improving technique and confidence. Just bring along a packed lunch, £10 towards the costs and scores if you have them. They will provide refreshments, music and a stimulating time. For more details contact Sara Kemsley at musicaldirector@kemsingsingers.com

Darent Valley Choir Spring Concert



The Darent Valley Choir will be holding their Spring concert at St Martin's Church, Eynsford, DA4 OEH on **Saturday 2nd April** at 7.30pm. They will be singing songs from the shows, English music and sacred music. There will be refreshments available and a raffle. Tickets will be available at Sevenoaks Bookshop and at the door. Do try and join them.

Otford Petanque Club



The Club is looking to bring in new members who would enjoy sociable Thursday afternoons playing Petanque (boule) on Otford Recreation ground (next to the football pavilion). Come along at 3pm on **31st March** or subsequent Thursdays for a trial session. To find out more please contact 01959 524242.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 26th March** in Otford Methodist Church Hall. (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE) when Bill Barnes will talk about '*Gold Threads, their manufacture & usage both past and present*' (also supplies for sale). 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.

Fair Feast 2016



Warmest thanks to everyone who helped with or shared in this quiz and pancakes evening at Otford Methodist Church which raised £1036.05 towards work to improve hygiene, sanitation and water supply in the Wakiso district of Uganda. Please note that Shrove Tuesday in 2017 is on February 28th.

Slimming World



There is a new Slimming World Group starting in Otford Village Hall every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm. Contact Emma on 07756630986 for details

Otford Society



Derek Buck, our treasurer, has advised us that he intends to retire from his position by the end of 2016 after 20 years sterling service to the Society, and we are looking to recruit. Derek says that the role is not onerous and you do not need to be an accountant. He would like start the handover process as soon as possible so that he can fully support the transition before he retires. If you are interested or have any questions about the role please email treasurer@otfordsociety.org.uk without any commitment. We have other vacancies on the committee so if you would like to get involved in protecting and improving our lovely village please email chairman@otfordsociety.org.uk for further information.

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 17th March** when Charles Hajdamach will talk about '*Dale Chihuly: The world's foremost glass artist*'. For further information see the website www.knopedfas.org.uk.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd March** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Brian Nobbs will talk about '*East Anglian highlights*'. East Anglia is within easy reach for a day trip, long weekend or a longer holiday. As well as better known sites, Brian will introduce some of the less well known wildlife hotspots in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details or e-mail jean.nobbs@tiscali.co.uk

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 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. We hope to see you there soon.

Heritage Centre Artist for the Months of March and April

Ann Breame



Ann writes "As a child I was always drawing and painting, encouraged by my Father. We would often copy the same picture to see who could do the best one! At school I took both 'O' and 'A' level art successfully passing before going on to St Mary's College in Cheltenham where I trained as a primary school teacher. I found art a great asset in my career, but usually found I was having to produce displays in the school. I have tried several different media but much prefer water colour. I spent two years studying botanical painting with Billy Showell which I thoroughly enjoyed. However, my favourite subjects are landscapes and birds".

Hospices of Hope Upcoming Events

Otford Quiz Night

Saturday 19th March at 7pm

Hospices of Hope Tearooms, 11a High Street, Otford
£12.00 per person to include a light supper.

For tickets please contact amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110



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/16/00066 Kent House, The Green

Demolition of existing garage and shed. Erection of a single storey rear and side extension together with alteration to entrance gateway and swimming pool in garden.

SE/16/00088 The Farm, Twitton Lane

Demolition of existing outbuildings and the detached house and the construction of a new detached house

SE/16/00095 105 Willow Park

Demolition of existing lobby to facilitate the erection of a two storey side extension.

SE/15/03886 Little Orchard, 22, Pilgrims Way East

Demolition of existing outbuildings and the detached house and the construction of a new detached house with subterranean basement

SE/15/039963 107 Evelyn Road (Amendment)

Additional dormer windows to side and rear. This application has been amended to show pre development existing plans and elevations.

SE/15/03879 5 Rye Lane

Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.

SE/16/00111 Unit 3, Vestry Road

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of four units for Class B8 (storage and distribution) and Class B2 (general industrial) purposes.

SE/16/0167 12 Rye Lane

Demolition of conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension with two roof lights and a single storey side extension with two roof lights.

SE/16/00203 Lower Barn Cottage, Park Farm, High Street

Proposed cellar

b. Results Received

SE/15/3115 36 Hillydeal Road

Erection of a two storey rear extension, alterations to existing dormers and new dormer to side elevation. Insertion of window to side and rear elevation and existing door replaced with windows to both side elevations. Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a detached double garage *Allowed*

- SE/15/03309 **Devon House, 49 High Street**
Removal of front right hand dormer, reduce height of left hand front dormer.
Reduce the height and width of rear dormer *Allowed*
- SE/15/03678 **24 The Charne**
Erection of a side and rear single storey extension *Allowed*
- SE/15/03686 **The Gables, Tudor Crescent**
Detached outbuilding with a new flat roof instead of pitched roof *Allowed*
- SE/15/03749 **55 High Street**
Dormer loft conversion *Allowed*
- SE/15/03758 **Otford Scout Hut, Station Road**
Erection of approx. 30m palisade fence adjacent to footpath SR48 *Allowed*
- SE/15/03771 **The Red House, 55, Greenhill Road**
Erection of a single storey side and rear extension and double garage with new gates. *Allowed*
- SE/15/03745 **Beechcroft, St Michael's Drive**
Erection of a two storey rear extension and a front infill extension. Partial demolition and conversion of existing garage. Extension to existing front terrace and to pavement. New retaining wall along rear elevation. *Allowed*
- SE/15/03862 **Becket House, Vestry Road**
Construction of a new entrance way to the existing building including associated re-landscaping and pedestrian access. *Allowed*
- SE/15/03905 **75 Sidney Gardens**
Demolition of existing side lean-to. Single storey rear extension with large metal sliding doors, rooflight and green roof. Formation of a front covered porch and conversion of existing garage to living room, insertion of window to the north elevation side passageway to bedroom 2 and two new openings to the south elevation. Loft conversion incorporating rear and side dormers and two rooflights over the front elevation. *Allowed*
- SE/15/03967 **Land South of Pilgrims Way Cottage, Pilgrims Way West**
Removal of condition 13 (bedroom window) of SE/14/04060. Erection of a detached five bedroom dwelling with detached garage, including shared use of and improvements to the existing access and the provision of a new public footpath link onto Rye Lane. *Allowed*

c. Trees

- SE/16/00196 **St Bartholomew's Church**
Various works to trees in the Conservation Area
- SE/16/00238 **Otford Village Pond**
Removal of Willow Tree

d. Appeal

- APP/G2245/W/15/3007600 **Hoparden Farm, Telston Lane**
Conversion of former stables to 2 bed dwelling including link

Appeal against refusal of planning permission

Dismissed

APP/G2245/C/14/3000490 **Hoggarden Farm, Telston Lane**

Appeal against enforcement notice to discontinue the use of buildings on the land for domestic storage and for residential purposes.

The appeal succeeded with regard to the period for compliance. The notice is varied to extend the period.

Newsletter Deliverers

We are currently looking for residents willing to go on a 'reserve' list to be available when regular deliverers are not. Thank you to Sally who has offered to cover Leonard Avenue. We also need someone to deliver in Hopfield Close if anyone can help please contact the parish council office. Many thanks.

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 March Newsletter will **Friday 11th March**



Don't forget the clocks go forward on

Saturday 26th March

Wishing you all a Very Happy Easter



Otford as seen by young people

Year 5 Otford Primary School Children were give a writing assignment about Otford and here for your enjoyment are the top two entries.

Otford village by Hannah Age 10



Streaming rivers, mossy logs, the early morning call of the small feathery birds, baby chicks hatching and chirping in spring. Sunny days, burning sun, you'll never miss the sunshine in summer! Crunchy leaves, tripping on toes, that's what autumn's all about! Frozen rivers, the croaking of frogs, the last call, winters begun. It goes without saying that Otford is a semi-rural place. Unlike London, bustling with people, Otford is a quaint little village nestled snugly between Dartford and Sevenoaks.

Naturally, Otford has wonderful views of countryside. There are lots of places to discover in Otford, like the evergreen forest and nature walks. Don't hang around, go for it! The trees are full of birds and bugs, go down to the streams, paddle and have a relaxing bath in the shallows with water stones surrounding you. In fact, Otford has a roundabout, but not just any roundabout; it has a duck pond in the middle of it. It was built in 1952 and is still there now. You'll love to circle around it in your little car; you may even go round twice accidentally! Did you know Otford's roundabout won the reward for the best roundabout in Britain? You'll be amazed by the beautiful ducks and birds surrounding it. The pond even has a duck house that once sank, but sure enough, managed to pop back up to the surface.

As your footsteps discover more, you shall be inside one of Otford's lovely shops, investigating all the cloths, hats, second hand toys and lots more. Walk further and you shall be right in front of Otford's castle, although one of the turrets sadly crumbled to pieces. But you never know what you'll discover next, will you? There are lots of little cottages to live in and guess what? If you are an animal lover there are lots of joyful animals that will bring a smile to your face.



There are at least three schools in Otford, two private schools (Russell house and St Michaels prep), but the happiest and friendliest is, of course the good old Otford Primary. All of the children have manners, why not give it a visit and maybe give us a rating from one to ten. Plus, if you're any sort of Christian, there are a few churches here in Otford. Finally there are one or two pubs in Otford so, bring some of your mates along!

In conclusion, I feel that I have persuaded you enough to visit or even live in Otford. Whether you like it or not come along and see what Otford's like.

It's unique, just like you think!



Welcome To Otford by Phoebe Age 10

Firstly, Otford is a very friendly and warm area to live in. The pretty pond, which is circled by old weeping willow trees, is thought to date back to Anglo Saxon times when it was possibly used as local livestock water.



The Beautiful Otford Pond!

Otford is in Kent, South East of England. It is quite near to Sevenoaks and is nestled in the middle of the small villages, Shoreham and Kemsing. This big village used to be as small as only a few cute 'lil' houses! Otford is in the commuter belt which means that it is very easy to get into Central London.



The Commuter Belt Of London!

Otford is very educational due to the fact that there are superb schools with amazing teachers working will be absolutely spoilt for choice if you bring children here! There are only a few shops in they are all brilliant! I would definitely that you go to all of them.



for children many there. You your Otford but recommend



HAPPY FACE!

Everyone in Otford Village, (well most!) are very friendly and trustworthy. If you ever come to Otford to stay, or just visit, you will always be welcome! In fact, if you're ever looking for your new buddies, just head over to the local rec. and you will have your new friends!

Do you like the outdoors and adventuring in the sun set? In Otford there are many parks and grassy areas to take your pets on walks and to get you into the fresh air sprit! Well, an intelligent person like yourself could easily get into the habit of frolicking happily in the freshly mowed grass every day! YIP-EE!!



Come To The Parks!

In conclusion, I hope that I have persuaded you enough to come and live in the beautiful Otford. If you already live here and you're reading this then maybe you learnt a new fact about the wonderful village you live in. So please, if you're looking for a nice area to live in, come to Otford, you will always be welcome!