

# Otford Parish Council

## May Newsletter 2016

### No 252

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 **9<sup>th</sup> May** and **13<sup>th</sup> June** 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



Sad to say, but the Willow tree was removed on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Whilst it was being felled the team complained on several occasions that it was rotten and that was when they were at the top. The base of the trunk was beyond saving and we were lucky that it did not suffer the same fate as the bus shelter at Bubblestone road during storm "Katie". Hopefully now that the pre-planted sapling has more light and no competition, it will grow to the same size over the next 50 years. There have been discussions on whether to plant a second tree or not and let the crowns merge but countering that, there have also been discussions on how it has opened up the view of the church from the High Street. OPC have taken the view that we will not be rushed into making the wrong decision.

Now on a more delicate topic - that of blocked sewers. Both ends of Otford were affected during the beginning of the month with blocked sewers in both Telston Lane and Oxenhill Shaw at the end of Tudor Drive. The problem/blockage in Telston Lane took more than a week to resolve and I'm still not 100% convinced that it has been completely solved and it resulted in the flooding of several properties within the Lane. The blockage in Oxenhill Shaw has been removed, but the clear-up operation was still continuing as I write this newsletter article. The



problem in Telston Lane was put down to a nappy that had been flushed down the toilet; no reason has yet been attributed to Oxenhill Shaw. I have been asked by Thames Water and "Lanes for Drains" who are Thames Water's contractors, to emphasise that only **pee, poo and paper** are flushed down the toilet. No nappies, J-Cloths, disinfectant wipes, or any other non-soluble materials (including some ladies personnel hygiene items should be flushed away). You may have got rid of the problem, but households further down-stream end up suffering as a result.



Whilst on this topic, at the last Parish Council meeting, the future of the public toilets was discussed and it was agreed that following the last 4 months of closure with minimal complaint, the toilets should be closed permanently. There were two main reasons; one is the constantly recurring vandalism and the other is Health and Safety, in that the raised steps within the toilet block are a trip hazard, which due to their design is far too expensive to remove. OPC has received quotations in the region of £20,000 to regenerate them and bring them up to modern day requirements. On top of which is the £7000-£8000 per year that it costs to run them.



Hedges are growing very quickly at the moment and a number in the village have grown over the public footway and are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight, use wheelchairs or double buggies. Please check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.



A huge thank you to all the helpers over the years at the Otford Lunch Club who celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday this month. Congratulations. There is currently room to go and join them and have a lovely home cooked meal every Thursday in the Village Hall. Just pop along from 11.30am and make new friends.

### **Otford Village Fete - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Starts at 12.00noon**



1000 years ago a battle took place in Otford, 50 years before the more famous one at Hastings! Had Canute won, English might not have been the main language spoken by residents of our village.

To commemorate this important battle the committee has chosen this theme for the 2016 fete and have arranged a number of activities, including a Kent based re-enactment group who will be performing their own 'battles' in the arena during the afternoon. If you want to come along dressed as an Anglo Saxon Warrior or someone from the Danish enemy, we would love to see you.

Of course we will still have our usual attractions - live music courtesy of 'Frank Sinatra'; 'Elvis' and this year 'The Beatles'. Elands Veterinary Clinic will be running our ever popular Dog Show - please ensure you register by 12noon to take part as it is always over-subscribed. With real ale, delicious food outlets and lots of activities for the young and the not so young, what's not to like.

**Entry Fee: £1.50 adults, children 10 and under free.**

For more information, please visit our website [www.otford.info/villagefete](http://www.otford.info/villagefete)



### Community Warden Surgery

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



### Otford Youth Singing Group

A new group is being formed for young people aged 9 to 17 to enjoy some fun learning to sing. The group will meet once each month for an hour on a Sunday afternoon, and is open to those from within our church, from local schools and from the village. It doesn't matter if you can already sing - or not!

Just come along. The aim is to start in September, but there may be a taster session during the summer. If you are interested, please contact St Bartholomew's Church office or phone 01959 523185.

### Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Caroline Halfpenny will give a talk about '*The Gardens of Cornwall*'. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail [gardeners@otford.net](mailto:gardeners@otford.net). Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors.

On Bank Holiday Monday whatever the weather the Gardeners' will have a stall at the Fete selling ornamental and edible plants raised by members.



Oxford Gardeners' Society has a Junior Challenge as part of the society's schedule. This year, the challenge is to grow French beans from seeds provided by the society. At the Autumn Show on **3<sup>rd</sup> September**, competitors need to bring a minimum of three beans for exhibition at the show, and a winner will be chosen. The challenge is open to anybody under 16. For further details, contact the secretary, Janet Finney, 01959 523760 or email [gardeners@otford.net](mailto:gardeners@otford.net).

The Garden Show at Stansted Park in Hampshire is the destination for this year's coach trip organised by Oxford Gardeners' Society. The trip is on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June** and is open to non-members. Please contact the secretary Janet Finney for further details. Telephone 01959 523760 or email [gardeners@otford.net](mailto:gardeners@otford.net).

### **Oxford & District Historical Society**



The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May** at 8pm in Oxford Village Memorial Hall when Nick Fothergill will give a talk on 'Battleships and blockade: Jutland and the Royal Navy in WW1'. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Adult subscriptions are £8 per year, joint/family £14 and visitors are welcome at each lecture for £3.

### **1940s Society**



The next meeting will be held on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May** in the Village Memorial Hall when Nigel Smales will give a talk entitled The Army Film & Photographic Unit. In 1939 the UK had no cameramen or photographers in uniform. Two years later it was decided that visual records could provide significant benefits not only for lifting public morale but also for military analysis, strategic planning and training. The RAF Film Production Unit and the Army Film & Photographic Unit were founded and despatched to cover the war in North Africa, including the Battle of Alamein. The Film 'Desert Victory' won the 1943 Oscar for Best Documentary and is arguably the greatest campaign film of all time. The AFPU went on to cover all other theatres of war. Nigel Smales whose father, Sergeant Cameraman Eddy 'Smiler' Smales, served with the Unit from 1941 until 1946 will give an illustrated presentation about the work of the AFPU. The meeting starts at 8pm and admission is £3.



## Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning

Our next Social Gathering will be in the Woodman on **Monday**

**16th May** from 7.30 pm when we shall be showing the film "Les Choristes" (The Choir) with English subtitles. Do join us.

If you would like to join the car-sharing weekend visit to Hardelot and the Bay of the Somme with hospitality on **1st-3rd July** please contact Jane Lawrey via the Parish Council Office as soon as

possible. Alternatively you may prefer the coach trip on **Saturday 3rd September** 2016. Details next month. Keep the date free.

## 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.

## Otford Medical Practice Participation Group

The Otford Patient Participation Group are organising another Health Awareness Event on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** from 10am to 1pm in Otford Methodist Hall. The event will run as follows:

1. **One to one consultations on Dementia Issues.** This is a follow up to the Dementia Day held last June. Come and talk to a Doctor, a Lawyer, or someone from Age UK and the Alzheimers Society. Come early and book your appointment.
2. **Presentations - Fit for the future**
  - 10.15 - Keeping Fit - Use it or Lose it
  - 10.45 - Dr Rajan on Strokes and Heart Attacks - reducing your risk, spotting the signs or coping after the event.
  - 11.45 - Age UK and ASB Law - Planning for later life
  - 12.30 - Question and Answer session

Come and go as you please. Refreshments will be available all morning.

## Health Walk



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

## St Bartholomew's Church Fair



St Bartholomew's Church Fair will be taking place this year on the **VILLAGE GREEN** on **Saturday 18th June** from 2pm. Stalls will include: Books, Plants, Cakes, Crafts, White Elephant, raffle, unwanted gifts, bottles, toys, soft drinks, strawberries and cream and ices. Other attractions include children's games and a bouncy castle. There will be a children's art competition with the theme of 'The Seaside' There are two categories 7-11 and under 7 with good prizes. All village children are welcome to submit an entry. Contact Christeen Malan on 01959 522654. There will be guided talks about the church during the afternoon Also there is a single rose competition judged by silent auction so why not bring along an entry this year on the day.

## 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 on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> June. 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](mailto:suebradley5@sky.com) or call 07715 663993.

## Ballroom Dance Social Evening



Ballroom/Latin/Sequence social dance evening, (not lessons). In other word come on out, have a drink, have a chat and even a dance or two. Bring your own drinks, entry £5.50 per person, Sundays May 2nd, June 26th, July 24th, August 14th, and many more. In Otford Village Memorial Hall between 7.30pm - 10.15pm. If you require any more details either call Les on 01474 324759 or email [l.johnson1@sky.com](mailto:l.johnson1@sky.com)

## Otford Library Craft Sessions



There will be **FREE** craft sessions at Otford Library on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** and on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June** from 10 until 12 noon. All children welcome, to book a place please ring 03000 41 31 31. 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 19<sup>th</sup> May** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. This month they will hold their AGM and take part in some retail therapy. 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 Annual meeting will be on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall. Do go along and hear what they have got planned for the coming year. Their President can be contacted on 01959 524831 for further information.

### Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when there will be an All Day workshop led by Jenny Adis-Christie on *'Millefiori Brooches'* 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.

### Otford Tennis Club



Otford Tennis Club is a small but friendly tennis club with 3 courts (2 are floodlit) just beyond the public tennis court next to the recreation ground. We always welcome new members at very reasonable rates. If you are interested in joining please contact Alison Dykes at: [alison.dykes@lwcldial.net](mailto:alison.dykes@lwcldial.net) for details.

The club has regular playing sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as Sunday mornings. We also have a club tournament and members are eligible to enter the ballot for Wimbledon tickets allocated to the club if they register (for free with the LTA). On **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May** we are hosting an open day when members, potential members and guests are all welcome to come and try out the facilities for no charge. Please come along and meet us and have a knock up or game. The club is also launching a new and comprehensive coaching programme this year run by our experienced coaches John Heuerman and Jo Powlson. There are different levels of junior coaching starting from Red level (age 5-7) up to Hard Ball (12-16) as well as adult coaching. For details on times and dates please contact 01959 523377 or [Sevenoakstennis@btinternet.com](mailto:Sevenoakstennis@btinternet.com)



### **Kemsing Singers Spring Concert**

On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm in St Edith Hall, Kemsing the Kemsing Singers and guest jazz ensemble will present a lively, mixed medley including Phantom of the Opera, When the Saints - the John Rutter arrangement and Chilcott Little Jazz Mass. Directed by Sara Kemsley and accompanied by Peter Young. Tickets £8 from 01959 523752.

### **Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society**

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> May** when Tom Duncan will talk about '*The Origins of Christian Art- Giovanni Bellini & Venetian Painting*'. For further information see the website [www.knoledfas.org.uk](http://www.knoledfas.org.uk).

### **RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group**



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold their AGM followed by Les Edwins talking about 'Operation Turtle Dove', describing the RSPB's efforts to help turn the tide of the decline of this iconic species in its summer shores. , Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details or e-mail [jean.nobbs@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jean.nobbs@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Heritage Centre Artist for May / June**

#### **Sue Isted**



This month's painting is by Sue Isted. Sue took up painting after her first child was born 25 years ago. At school she never took art seriously and was considered a 'no hoper' by her art teacher. She started classes at Sevenoaks Adult Education Centre and then progressed to Chipstead Art Group under the guidance of Eirlys Hollands who introduced her to the joy of pastels. Now, Sue is with the Otford Art Group with whom she is very much at home. She mainly loves painting animals and portraits, older face with character being of particular fascination. Occasionally she dabbles in acrylics and watercolour but always returns to pastels for sculptural quality.

## Hospices Of Hope Events

Ladies Lunch with Eurobe Fashion

**Thursday 9th June** at 12:00

Rowhill Grange Hotel & Utopia Spa, Wilmington, Kent, DA2 7QH

£29 per person to include an arrival drink, two course luncheon with a glass of wine and coffee with mint chocolates. Followed by a fashion show featuring the latest labels from Eurobe Womenswear.

For tickets please contact [amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk) / 01959 525110

Ladies Lunch with Tea Expert and Tasting

**Monday 13th June** at 12:00

Alexander House Hotel, East Street, Turners Hill, East Grinstead, RH10 4QD

£29 per person to include an arrival drink, two course luncheon with a glass of wine & coffee with chocolate mints. Followed by Alex Probyn from blends for friends, who will be sharing his wealth and experience about tea and demonstrating some of the skills as a tea taster.

For tickets please contact [amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk) / 01959 525110

## Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury

**Friday 20th May**



Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May** whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting the Spinal Injuries Association's (SIA) vital services. You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but they will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA. The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury. For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email [fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk) or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)

## Hospice in The Weald Open Gardens 2016



Enjoy another summer with the Hospice in The Weald Open Gardens scheme which gives you a rare chance to take a look around some of the finest gardens in the area. There will be cottage gardens, formal showpieces, wildlife havens and village walkabouts. The scheme begins on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May at Lyewood House, Hartfield and runs through to September. The programme can be viewed at [www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/fundraise/open-gardens-and-travel-club/open-gardens](http://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/fundraise/open-gardens-and-travel-club/open-gardens) or to order a brochure please contact Pam Coleman on 01892 820502.

## Dog Fouling



This is still a problem, which should **NOT** be a problem at all on the pavements in the village, also on the Recreation Ground especially around the new pavilion, near the play area and on the main football pitch. There are plenty of bins available **PLEASE USE THEM** and **DO NOT** throw the bags into the hedgerow. It is very anti-social and potentially health threatening not to pick up after your dog. If you don't you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £25. The Dog Warden and our Community Warden are on the lookout and offenders will be fined.

## Kent Police Mobile Police Station



The Mobile Police Station will be visiting Sainsbury's Car Park on **2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May** between 4.30 and 5.30pm. If you would like to raise any policing issues or want to find out more about crime prevention then please go along.

## 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/16/00620 **96 Evelyn Road**

Loft conversion to include two dormers to the rear and one dormer plus roof light to the front, and roof light to the flat top on roof.

**SE/16/00655 Lorien, St Michael's Drive**

Demolition of garage. Double storey infill front extension and a ground floor extension to the rear elevation. Alterations to fenestrations and internal alterations including a Juliet balcony.

**SE/16/00742 78 High Street**

Erection of a single storey side extension and a front porch.

**SE/16/00803 Burfield, Pilgrims Way East**

Raising the roof ridge with the installation of two roof lights

**SE/16/00937 21 High Street**

Removal of existing chimney stack to be replaced with slates to match existing.

**SE/16/00804 25 Knighton Road**

Conversion of existing garage into habitable space with bay window to front elevation. Erection of a pitched roof to front porch extending over new bay window. Demolition of existing conservatory to allow for the erection of single storey rear extension. Various internal and fenestration alterations.

**b. Results Received**

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

Demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of a replacement house with subterranean basement *Allowed*

**SE/15/03963 107, Evelyn Road**

Additional dormer windows to side and rear *Refused*

**SE/16/00095 105 Willow Park**

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

**SE/15/03879 5 Rye Lane**

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

**SE/16/00167 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. *Allowed*

**SE/16/00284 Medes Rising, 19 Coombe Road**

Proposed single storey side/rear extension *Allowed*

**SE/16/00320 Ditton Cottage, 16, Rye Lane**

Demolition of existing garage to facilitate the erection of a single storey side and rear extension to include glazed lantern light. *Allowed*



### May Bank holiday refuse collection times

Your revised refuse, recycling and garden waste collection days are:-

May Day Bank Holiday - 2nd May -one day later.

Spring Bank Holiday - 30th May - one day later.

### Newsletter Deliverers

If anyone is willing to cover the Station Road area please could they contact the office or just go on a reserve list in case of holidays please let the Parish Council know. Many thanks.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the June Newsletter will **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

### Parish Councillors Contact Details

<u>Chairman</u>		
John Edwards-Winser	Oastbrook, Telston Lane	522503
<u>Councillors</u>		
Philip Clucas	24 Tudor Drive	philip.clucas@otford.net
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
Nick Rushby	Chantry Cottage The Green	525205
Jon Verrall	24 Pilgrims Way East	jon.verrall5@btinternet.com
Martin J. Whitehead	19 Coombe Road	524088