

Otford Parish Council
November Newsletter 2017
No 267

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

From the Chairman: The Otford Neighbourhood Plan

I talked about our intentions for the Otford Neighbourhood Plan in the last Newsletter. I emphasised that this is not a task for the Parish Council alone: we have to involve the whole community!

Since then, planning has started in earnest. During the past month we have started to get ourselves organised, collecting the background documents that will guide the work, and planning the various steps that we have to take. We need to take the earliest opportunity to tell you more about the benefits (and the downside) of having a Neighbourhood Plan and to listen to your initial ideas as to what we should include in it. That opportunity will be at the Village meeting in December. Some of the topics for the Neighbourhood Plan are obvious. For example: How many new houses do we think we can absorb in the village and what kind of housing should it be? What are the requirements for public transport, for educational services and medical services? How can we protect the Green Belt that helps to give Otford its separate identity. How can we protect our heritage? But there are some more fundamental questions that will shape those topics. What do you value about Otford? What would you want to change? What is your vision for the future of Otford over the next 15 years? Our response to these questions may help us to influence some of the more intangible aspects of Village life, such as enhancing the sense of community and well-being.

The Neighbourhood Plan must be based on evidence, and that evidence needs to be collected and analysed. We have already set up two working groups. One, led by Irene Roy is looking at Traffic Management throughout the Village and will report in the Spring on practical measures that can be taken to make Otford a

safer and more pleasant place to live. The second, on Sustainable Tourism is being led by Nick Fothergill and is just starting its work. Both Irene and Nick would like to hear your views on these issues.

The Village meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of **Saturday 2nd December at 2.30pm**, and we encourage you to come, ask questions and give us your views on the future. Please put the date in your diary now, tell your friends in the Village and encourage them to come too. It will be to your advantage to get involved in this process.

Oxford is your Village and the Oxford Neighbourhood Plan will enable you to determine your future.

The Parish Council is looking to recruit a part time cleaner for 2hrs a fortnight for cleaning School House & Heritage Centre. Pay is £12.50 per hour. If you are interested please contact the office on 01959 524808 or call into the office.



Remembrance Day 2017



Please remember that traffic will be halted at the pond between **10.45am and 11.15am** on Remembrance Day **Sunday 12th November** so if you are making a journey please get through before but if you do get caught please just be patient and remember why you are waiting.

WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE.

Oxford Scouts Bonfire Night



Oxford Scouts are holding their usual bonfire night in the Chalk Pit opposite the Scout Hut on **Saturday November 4th**. The gates open at 5:30pm and there will be the usual bonfire, fireworks, BBQ, soup and glow-sticks. These are always fun nights with good support from Oxford residents so please come and support your local bonfire night, have fun and help Oxford Scouts. Advance tickets will be available from Oxford Dry Cleaners and Yvonne's, or at the gate on the night.



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 United Football Club



Congratulations to Otford United Football Club who made history last month when they hosted the first competitive match in Kent with a side from overseas (St Peter's, Jersey) for **98** years. It was a great competitive well attended game. St Peter's won by 1-0. Unlucky Otford.

The Otford Society Community Party



This years' Otford Society Community Party will be held from 6pm to 11pm on **Saturday 25th November** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. The event will feature live music from 'Cool Groove', a talented trio who will play a range of well-known numbers guaranteed to get toes tapping, while an included all-you-can-eat wood fired pizza buffet from 'Odori & Saponi by Romeo'. They will cater from all tastes including vegetarians and vegans, gluten free options are available if ordered in advance. A licensed bar will sell wine, local beer, and a range of soft drinks - and don't forget the legendary raffle which will again offer a host of amazing prizes. Advance tickets are available now at discounted rates of £12 per adult and £5 per child (3-16) with under 3's free, and can be purchased from the Parish Council office, Yvonne's and The Otford Emporium - or through www.otfordsociety.org.uk/party. On the night ticket prices will be £15 per adult and £7.50 per child. All profits will go to the Otford Scouts & Guides. If you can't attend the party but would like to support the cause then do get in touch to buy raffle tickets. For more information, e-mail events@otfordsociety.org.uk or call 07930 374332.

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.

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.

St Bartholomew's Christmas Market



The Christmas market will take place in the Church Centre (adjacent to the Church) on **Saturday 25th November** from 10am to 12 noon. Stalls will include: gift wrapping, cards, Christmas tree and table decorations, candles, cakes, bulbs (the growing kind), Christmas sweets and chocolates, and a herb and spice craft stall. A super Christmas raffle is also planned. Tea, Coffee and biscuits, stollen and mince pies will also be on sale for you to enjoy while having a chat with friends.

Newsletter delivery

A big thank you to Becky for offering to cover the Rye Lane area. Now a newsletter deliverer is STILL required to cover **Station Road and Becketts Place**. Please contact the office if you are willing to take over this area. It only takes about 1 hour 10 times a year. Thank you.



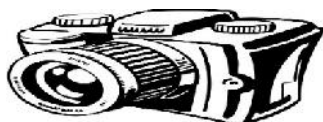
Speedwatch volunteers

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.

Eating for Health - Eating for Diabetics

Another Health event on **Saturday 11th November** from 10am to 12.30pm at Otford Methodist Church Hall. The title explains it all- as usual there will be presentations and ample time for questions.

Otford Oast WI



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 16th November** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Jane Mucklow will talk about 'Photography' 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 9th November** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall. Unfortunately, their speaker has had to cancel so they will be holding a Quiz Evening instead. Time to test the little grey cells! Visitors are very welcome at the meetings and if further information is required please contact their President on 01959 524831.

Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach

The next surgery will take place on **Tuesday 7th November** between 10am and 12 noon. Drop in appointments may be available on the day. Ring 01732 440488 and leave a message at any time.



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

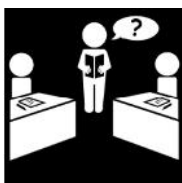


The next meeting of the 2017/18 Winter programme will be on **Wednesday 22nd November** at 8pm, refreshments served from 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Fred Lemont will talk about '*Cadbury, Fry & Rowntree - The Chocolate Quakers*'. Adult subscription is £10. No charge for under 16's and visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting.

1940's Society

The next meeting of the 1940's Society will take place on **Friday 24th November** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm when the talk is titled '*Blood & Bandages - Fighting for life in the RAMC Field Ambulance*'. Author Liz Coward will talk about the role of the Royal Army Medical Corp during the Second World War and in particular the personal experiences of William Earl who joined the 214th field ambulance seeing action in North Africa and throughout the entire Italian Campaign. Liz will also be signing copies of her book 'Blood & Bandages.'

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. Meetings in November are **1st, 15th & 29th November**. Contact Hazel Terry on 01959 523047 for more details.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group

On **Thursday 2nd November** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a talk by Dr Brett Lewis on '*Travels with my Camera*' - Wildlife with biodiversity in mind. A look at wildlife encounters from around the SE region, together with wildlife and landscapes from further afield. Brett will be sharing his experiences and knowledge as a biologist and ecologist. 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 16th November** when Jo Walton will talk about '*Eric Ravilious and the Lure of the Everyday*'. Eric Ravilious has been described as the greatest English water colourist of the twentieth century. A prolific painter, print maker and designer he became an official War Artist in 1939 and was killed in 1942, his legacy being a body of work reflecting delight at the world in which he lived. This talk looks at his work and that of some of his contemporaries working on the Home Front in the Second World War. ordinary people. See the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 25th November** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will have a morning talk by Anne Kelly on 'Natural World' and there will be a bring & share Christmas Lunch & party. 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.

'The Three Musketeers'



Oxford Village Memorial Hall proudly presents 'The Three Musketeers' starring Three Half Pints. For one performance only on **Saturday 18th November** at 2.30pm. Doors open at 2pm.

Chaos, mayhem and slapstick stupidity reign supreme as the Three Half Pints swish their swords, buff their boots and flourish their feathers in their most ridiculous adventure yet. Will they defeat the dastardly evildoers? Will they save the damsel in distress? Will they read the book before writing this show? Nobody knows... but you can bet the **CBeebies favourites** will provide a hilarious slapstick adventure of chivalry, swordplay and suddenly falling over. The 17th century has never been so silly! The Three Half Pints are a slapstick comedy trio. **Tickets prices are £10 for adults and £5 for children 5 -16 years old. Under 5's Free.** Tickets can be purchased from Yvonne's (Telston Lane), The Oxford Emporium, Oxford Parish Council Offices and Wegottickets.com. Entry is ticket only and these are limited. The performance ends at around 4.30pm with an interval. A cash bar with limited range will be available. **The show is suitable for families and adults with a silly sense of humour.** All profits go to the Oxford Village Memorial Renovation Fund

Kemsing Singers



The Kemsing Singers, well known to many, have recently begun rehearsing for their Winter programme which, of course includes their popular Christmas concerts on **15th and 16th December**. This year our concerts are in aid of Age UK. The singers are very welcoming to new members of any experience and promise fun as well as fine singing. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to turn up at 7.30pm to St Edith's Hall, Kemsing on a Monday rehearsal evening and try us out for a few weeks' trial. Music and support will be provided. Alternatively, for more information ring our secretary, Margaret Holgate on 01732 454448, or email her at secretary@kemsingsingers.com, or look up www.kemsingsingers.com for more information.

Hospices of Hope Events

Wine Tasting - with a truly Romanian flavour

Wednesday 8th November Time: 6pm - 9pm

Venue: Romanian Cultural Institute - 1 Belgrave Square, London.

Ticket: £15.00 per person to include tasting and light bites

The Roaring 20s

Salamons, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0TG



Saturday 11th November Tickets cost £45 per person (£400 for a table of 10) and include a glass of bubbly, a three-course meal, wine and coffee and dancing. Dress code - best party attire, fancy dress optional

Otford Quiz Night

Saturday 18th November Doors open at 7pm, supper served at 7.30pm
Hospices of Hope Tearoom, 11a High Street, Otford, Kent,
£12.00 per person to include a light supper

Ladies Lunch with Chic Flowers

Rowhill Grange Hotel Wilmington Kent BR8 7SQ

Thursday 30th November 12 noon arrival

Ticket: £29.00 per person to include an arrival drink, two course lunch with a glass of wine & coffee with mint chocolates. Join us for a sumptuous festive luncheon at Rowhill Grange Hotel. Our guest speakers from Chic Flowers will be giving ideas and inspiration on how to create a 'sparkling Christmas'.

Heritage Centre artist for Nov, 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.

Oxenhill Woods

For resident's information, there will be Autumn and Winter improvement work taking place in this area and will include the following:

- Cutting of the paths in the shaw area and some stump grinding of areas previously cleared
- Widening of rides
- Laying of roadstone on some of the paths
- Cutting of hedgerows

Kent County Council Proposed budget 2018/19

To balance the KCC budget for 2018/19 they have to find an estimated £66m of savings. Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/budgetconsultation to have your say on the proposals to fix the budget gap and tell them your priorities.

DIAL 2 DRIVE

Volunteer Drivers

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.

Planning



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

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.

SE/17/02885 10, Shinecroft

Minor material amendment to application 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.

SE/17/02549 02(UK) Ltd, Telecom Equip, Hopgarden Farm, Telston Lane

Removal of the existing headframe, to be replaced with a Delta headframe, supporting 6 no relocated antenna, 3 no additional antenna and 1 no O.3. additional dish together with ancillary development thereto.

SE/17/02990 Little Oast, High Street

Continued use of property as a single dwelling

SE/17/02940 60 Well Road

Erection of a ground and first floor extension at front and rear, new bay-window at ground floor to match the existing and new rooflights.

SE/17/03019 Summerleaze, 40 Pilgrims Way East

Demolition of existing bay window, rear conservatory and front canopy. Erection of a single storey extension to the rear with rooflight and single storey extension to the front. Raising the roof to incorporate a new first floor with dormers to the front and rear and increasing the height of the chimney. Erection of a new canopy to the front. Alterations to fenestrations.

SE/17/02685 AMENDED **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. (The proposed description has been amended to clarify the works shown on the drawings. The previously described dormer window is shown to be a proposed two storey extension with hipped gable roof. The works previously described as a new conservatory roof appears to include the demolition and replacement of much of the conservatory itself).

SE/17/03081 **6, Tudor Drive**

Minor Material amendment to SE/17/00164 (for erection of a first-floor side extension and a single storey rear extension. A new ramped access to the side of the property. Removal of chimney. Alterations to fenestration and internal alterations. Conversion of garage into habitable room); showing alterations to floor and roof pans by building over the existing porch and elevation. Clad in roof tiles to match existing.

b. Results Received

SE/17/02249 **Foxhole, 14, Greenhill Road**

Demolishing existing garage. Erection of a two-storey double garage, to include a swimming poolroom and a gym room in the roof with rooflights *Allowed*

SE/17/02407 **83A Pilgrims Way West**

Minor material amendment to application SE/16/02221 for the demolition of existing conservatory. Raising of the roof to incorporate a new first floor, conversion of the garage into a habitable space, two storey side and single storey rear and side extensions to show the reduction of rear gable and internal alterations.

c. Trees

SE/17/02971 **Vicarage, The Green**

Mature Cedar of Lebanon - remove all major and significant deadwood over 25mm diameter. Spruce - raise crown of approximately 3.0m

Rubbish and Garden Bags

Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £14.00 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.



Alternatively, for £45 a year Sevenoaks District Council will loan you a 240-litre garden waste wheelie bin. If space is limited then they can loan you a 140-litre bin for £30. Contact customer services on 01732 227000 for more details.

Parish Councillors Contact Details

<u>Chairman</u>		
Nick Rushby	Chantry Cottage The Green	525205
<u>Councillors</u>		
Philip Clucas	24 Tudor Drive	philip.clucas@otford.net
John Edwards-Winser	Oastbrook Telston Lane	522503
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	7 Leonard Avenue	howard@accessible-info.co.uk
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



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.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the December & January newsletter is **Weds 17th November**