

Otford Parish Council
November Newsletter 2016
No 257

Twinned with Neufchatel-Hardelot

Clerk: Mrs. S. Palmer

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Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri - clerk@otfordpc.co.uk

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 November** and **12th December** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Chairman's Report

I have often been asked to assist with local problems so below I have included a rough breakdown of the Roles and Responsibilities of the various layers of Local Government.

Kent County Council

KCC is responsible for all adoption and Fostering, Blue Badge Parking, Bus passes for those eligible, Countryside Management, Dunbrick (the tip or Dump), Education, ALL highways issues including Gritting Roads, Libraries, Public Transport (Buses), Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Social Services, Street lighting, Trading Standards, Youth Services.

KCC has 84 elected members and elections take place every 4 years. Otford is currently in the Ward of Sevenoaks North which includes Bat & Ball, Kemsing and Seal. This is likely to change in May as KCC are reducing the number of County Councillors and effecting boundary changes to accommodate this reduction.

KCC - county.hall@kent.gov.uk, 03000 41 41 41, County Councillor - nick.chard@kent.gov.uk

Sevenoaks District Council

Sevenoaks District Council are responsible for Animal Welfare, Bottle Banks Building Control, Car Parking, Local Traffic enforcement, CCTV, Community Safety, Council Tax and Business rate collection, Housing benefit, Economic Development, Elections, Environmental Health, Food Safety, Housing, Leisure and

Sports facilities, Parks and Recreation Grounds, Planning, Refuse and Recycling collection, Street Cleaning.

Sevenoaks District Council has 54 District Councillors and members are elected every 4 years. The Otford and Shoreham Ward has 2 District Councillors.

SDC - 01732-227000, information@sevenoaks.gov.uk

District Councillors - John Edwards-Winser - 01959-522503, cllr.edwards-winsler@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Michelle Lowe - 01959-525109, cllr.lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Otford Parish Council

Parish Councils are the foundation of Local Government. Sevenoaks District has 30 such Parishes, whilst other Districts have only a few. The Parishes vary in size and the number of councillors is proportional to their population. For example Otford has 11 councillors, whereas Shoreham has 7

The Parish Councils are responsible for providing and maintaining a range of community assets. In Otford they include, The Allotments, Village Green, Pond & ducks, The Car Parks, Cemetery, Community Woodland, Play Areas, Recreation Ground, Open Spaces, Tennis Courts, Parish Office, Litter Bins, Dog Waste Bins, Seats and Benches, Notice Boards, The Model Solar System, Collection of litter. OPC also operate a Speedwatch and Lorrywatch team, are consulted by SDC on all planning applications that affect the Parish and Strategic Planning affecting the District and County. They have a team of dedicated councillors who give up their time freely to help the local community.

OPC - 01959-524808, clerk@otfordpc.co.uk

Remembrance Day 2016



Please remember that traffic will be halted at the pond between **10.45am and 11.15am** on Remembrance Day **Sunday 13th 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.

Otford Scouts Bonfire Night



Otford Scouts are holding their usual bonfire night in the Chalk Pit opposite the Scout Hut on **Saturday November 5th**.

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 Otford residents so please come and support your local bonfire night, have fun and help Otford Scouts. Advance tickets will be available from

Otford 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.

Sevenoaks Book Fair



On **Saturday 19th November** between 9am and 3.30pm the Book Fair will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Free admission.

Otford Cubs need help urgently



Otford is lucky to have two thriving Cub Packs, which meet on Monday and Thursday evenings with around twenty children in each. However, the two leaders who ran the Thursday Pack retired in July. Jonathan Booth, who runs the Monday Pack has taken over the running of both Packs for now. He can only do this until Christmas. After that, and unless a new leadership team can be found, the Thursday Pack will close, which will disappoint many local children (not just those who currently attend, but all future Cubs!). Please, if you have any Scouting experience and/or are willing to help (training and support will be provided), please contact Jonathan on: (01959) 524954 or by email on: boothhq@btinternet.com.

Otford Village Society

Community Christmas Party



The Otford Village Society will be hosting an Otford Community Christmas Party on **Saturday 3rd December** in Otford Village Memorial Hall from 7.30pm until late. This is a fundraising event to raise money to carry on refurbishment of the Village Hall. There will be local beers and wine, magic, music, wine tasting, face painting, a hog roast, raffle and silent auction. Tickets are £10 adult and £5 children.

Otford Oast WI



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 17th November** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will be looking at 'Forever Aloe Vera Products'. A crèche is available and the first visit is free. For more details or if you wish to join please contact the Secretary Sharna Peyto on 07860 463656 for more details.

Otford Heritage Centre



The next Coffee and Cake morning will be on **Tuesday 1st November** between 10.30am and 12 noon. You will be able to see the displays, meet some of those who run the centre who are all volunteers and at 11.30am Elizabeth Ward will introduce the latest display on 'Otford Pond' If you would like to come - and you would be most welcome - please ring Tina Freke (01959 524661) to reserve a place and a cake.

Otford & District Historical Society

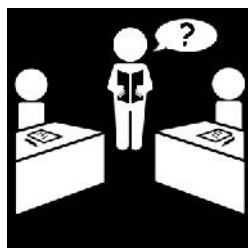


The next meeting of the 2016/17 Winter programme will be on **Wednesday 16th November** at 8pm, refreshments served from 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Ed Thompson and Alan Williams will talk about '*Post-War Education - the Wilderness Years*'. Adult subscription is £10. No charge for under 16's and visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting.

Otford Evening WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10th November** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall when Ian Porter will talk about '*The Real Downton Abbey*' - domestic service in the early 20th century' Visitors are most welcome and more information is available by contacting their President on 01959 524831.

Otford Gardeners' Society



The final meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday 6th December** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall will be the Annual Quiz and Fun night. Teams of maximum of 6. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild Exhibition



The last meeting of the year will take place on **Saturday 26th November** in Otford Village Hall between 11am and 4pm. There will be holding a party and a afternoon talk by Wendy Dolan on '*Interpreting Natural Forms in Embroidery*'. For further information please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

Christmas 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 **Wednesday 7th December** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The cost will be £35. Then on **Wednesday 14th December** at 7.00pm she will be holding a Table and Mantle arrangement workshop. Cost again is £35 but arrangements may be more dependent on size required. 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.

Guide Christmas Post Box



The Guide Christmas Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Thursday 24th November and Friday 16th December** inclusive during opening hours. A second Box will also be available in the Parish Council Office on Monday to Friday between the same dates.

All cards will be delivered by Brownies and Guides over the weekend 17/18th December. Stamps will be **25p** per card and all money will go to the chosen charities. This will be the 34th year that Otford Guides have been delivering Christmas cards in the village and we would like our Christmas Post Service for the village to continue and be really successful, so please give generously and support us by posting early.

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 8.30am - 12.30pm

Tree of Light



The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 9th December** at 7.00pm 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.

St Bartholomew's Christmas Market



The Christmas market will take place in the Church Centre (adjacent to the Church) on **Saturday 19th November** from 10am to 12 noon.

Stalls will include: gift wrapping, cards, Christmas tree and table decorations, candles, bulbs (the growing kind), Christmas sweets and chocolates, and a spice craft stall. Tea, Coffee and biscuits, stollen and mince pies will also be on sale for you to enjoy while having a chat with friends.

Otford Art Group Show & Sale



The Otford Art Group are holding a show and sale of original paintings and cards and also a local wood turner will be there selling some items on **Sunday 27th November** between 10.30am and 3.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall. Entry is free.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 3rd November** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when John Buckingham will give a talk on '*Birds and Mammals of the Indian Sub-Continent*'. A cornucopia of Tigers, Asian Lion, Rhino, and many other species of mammals and birds from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.

Otford Youth Singing Group



come along!

Dates this term are **Sunday 6th November** and **Sunday 27th November** from 3pm to 4pm. If you are interested, please give your name, age and phone number to the St Bart's Church Office (telephone 01959 523185 between 10 am and 12 noon) or email cmbishop38@gmail.com

History of Otford's pond



That the pond is well known, there can be no doubt. If you say that you live in Otford, the response is often: "Oh, that's the village with the pond in the middle of the road". How much do we really know about the pond? For example, do we have any idea how old it is? We should all be much more knowledgeable when we have been able to see the next display in the Otford Heritage Centre - it sets out to share with us all the most significant things that are known about the pond. But your help is needed. The centre would be delighted to hear from you should you have any photographs, pictures, letters or stories, property deeds or anything else that throws light upon the pond's history, or should you wish to help to arrange the display. If you are able to help in any way - and your help would be most gratefully received - please contact Elizabeth Ward (01959 522384).

Front Garden Competition

The result of this year's competition is shown below. Well done everyone.



First prize - 16, Leonard Avenue

Second Prize - 4, The Old Walk

Third Prize - 13, Dane Road

Highly Commended:

47, Tudor Crescent

1, Great Till Close

20, Hale Lane

57, Sydney Gardens

Commended:

Chartlands, St. Michaels Drive

33, Tudor Drive

22, Twitton Meadow

19, Hale Lane

12, Hale Lane

41, Willow Park

30, The Charne

39, Greenhill Road

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 November** when Viv Lawes will talk about '*The Sculpted Horse - Themes in Equine Sculpture*'. For further information see the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

First Steps

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 children. They are temporarily meeting at Otford Evangelical Free Church, Pilgrims Way West where there is plenty of parking, while the new Methodist Church is being built. Their next meetings are on **Wednesday 2nd, 16th & 30th November** between 9.30am - 11.30am term time only.

Kemsing Singers



Kemsing Singers need you - if you fancy some fun and fine singing go along and have a go. Contact Sheila Dickerson on 01959 524183 or visit kemsingsingers.com for more info.

They are a mixed, friendly and sociable group of 40-50 singers and welcome new members. They sing a wide variety of light and more serious music, which they perform for public and charitable occasions. While experience is helpful, it is not essential. Several members have rediscovered their love of singing after a long gap. They provide support to learn the music both in the fun Monday night rehearsals and through online materials to use at home. Why not come along and try us out? We allow a free trial of about 4 weeks. After that, if you want to be a member, Sara, our cheery Musical Director, has a brief private session with you to find out more about your voice and requirements. She promises it is not scary! Rehearsals are on Mondays 7.30-9.30 at St Edith Hall, Kemsing from September to June.



Hospices of Hope Events

'Endurance Shackleton's way' a breakfast talk with motivational speaker Rob Caskie

A century after Shackleton's Endurance Expedition join Hospices of Hope for story telling at its most compelling with South African presenter and raconteur Rob Caskie.

Friday 4th November at 08:00am - One Warwick Park

Function Room, 1 Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5TA. Ticket: £30.00 per person to include a full English breakfast. Contact Amy on 01959515110 amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Ladies Lunch with Temple Spa Founder Liz Warom

Thursday 10th November - 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 guest speaker, Temple Spa founder Liz Warom. For tickets please contact amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110

Christmas Craft Evening

Saturday 19th November 7pm until 10pm

at Bessels Green Baptist Church Hall, Bessels Green, TN13 2PS

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

All ages welcome. Help us bring hope this Christmas by joining this fun evening!

Tickets £12 per person. Contact Amy on 01959 525110

amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Silver Soiree Celebrating 25 years of providing hospice care in South East Europe

Saturday 26th November at 7.00pm - Carriages midnight

Salomons, Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells. TN3 0TG

Tickets £40.00 per person (10% discount for booking a table of 10)

to include a glass of sparkling wine on arrival, 3 course meal, wine & coffee followed by dancing.

Dress code best party attire with a hint of silver!

Contact Amy on 01959 525110 amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Heritage Centre Artist for November/ December

Julian Cheswick



Julian says "I have always loved sketching and drawing. In the 1970's I started water colour painting - mainly landscapes and riverscapes. Pressure of work, raising a family and other distractions reduced my output to about three pictures over the next thirty years, until I joined the Otford Art Group. The medium I use now is gouache. I paint a range of architectural and mechanical subjects, but my current interest is in animals, birds and rural scenes".

Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach



The Citizens Advice service provides free, confidential, independent and impartial advice to help people solve their problems. Help is available on a range of issues: Employment, Housing, Consumer, Relationships, Benefits, Debt problems and others. **Sevenoaks Citizens Advice hold a weekly surgery at the Heritage Centre in Otford every Tuesday from 10.00am till 12.00noon.** Drop in appointments may be available on the day. For telephone advice or to book an appointment at the Otford outreach: ring 01732 440488 and leave a message at any time. Someone will call you back.

For email advice: info@sevenoaks.cab.org.uk

For further information about Sevenoaks Citizens Advice: visit the website www.citizensadvice.org.uk/sevenoakscab



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/16/02440 **12 Willow Park**

Erection of a single storey rear extension. Conversion of the existing garage to form a habitable space with enlarged utility area.

SE/16/02359 **Land north of 28 Well Road**

Erection of a new house with access via a new crossover from Bubblestone Road

SE/16/02806 **28 Warham Road**

Replace existing glass roof to conservatory with a pitched and tiled roof to match existing property with roof lights.

SE/16/02806 28 Warham Road

Replace existing glass roof to conservatory with a pitched and tiled roof to match existing property with roof lights.

SE/16/02642 Willow House, Sevenoaks Road

Demolition of existing side extension. Construction of a 2 storey side extension. Single storey rear extension. Construction of living accommodation in roof space. Amended as follows: Ridge line lowered by 500mm, dormer window repositioned on rear elevation, 2no rooflights indicated on front elevation, window on left flank elevation hatched to indicate its removal.

SE/16/02877 38 Pilgrims Way East

Demolition of existing front/side ground floor extension and rear dormer and erection of a part single and part two storey front extension and single storey side extension and three roof lights to the rear.

SE/16/02897 Land to the South of Fairacre Wood, Shoreham Road

Erection of a detached double garage.

b. Results Received

SE/16/02264 Devon House, 49 High Street

Minor material amendment to SE/15/03309(Removal of front right hand dormer. Reduce the height and width of rear dormer) to alter the rear dormer dimensions. *Allowed*

SE/16/02221 83A Pilgrims Way West

Demolition of existing conservatory. Raising of the roof to incorporate a new first floor, conversion of garage into habitable, two storey side and single storey rear and side extensions. *Allowed*

SE/16/02011 38 Tudor Crescent

Demolition of existing single storey rear extension. Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. *Refused*

SE/16/01978 Leighs, Shoreham Road

Proposed roof alterations, including alteration to front roof line. Removal of rear dormer to incorporate new rear gable. Proposed front porch and alterations to fenestration. *Refused*

SE/16/02442 First Floor, 28A High Street

Change of use from offices to a dwelling *Allowed*

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.



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 double issue December/ January Newsletter will be **Wednesday 16th November**

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