

Otford Parish Council
October Newsletter 2017
No 266

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 **9th October** and **13th November** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

From the Chairman: Your vision of Otford

We value Otford for its community and its identity. We live in the heart of the Darent Valley in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The centre of Otford, a Heritage Village, is a conservation area that covers some 16 hectares with about 40 listed buildings together with part of the Archbishop's Palace which is a scheduled ancient monument. About 93% of Sevenoaks District is green belt land, part of which separates us from Sevenoaks. If you compiled a list of idyllic villages on South-East England, Otford would feature very near the top.

Yet, pressures for more housing in the South-East mean that Sevenoaks District must find space for 12,400 new dwellings between now and 2035. Of course, not all of these will be in our immediate area: many will be in Edenbridge and Swanley - and in Northern Sevenoaks. But the villages of Otford and our neighbours down the Darent will be asked to find land for up to 200 new homes. Within the whole District there will also be a need for more schools, medical facilities, shops and industrial space. Much as we might like to preserve Otford exactly as it is now the reality is that some development must come. As a community, we can choose whether to let this happen piecemeal - or to manage it so that our core value are preserved.

For some time, the Planning Committee of Otford Parish Council has been discussing the merits of developing a **Neighbourhood Plan** and has now resolved that the time is right to proceed.

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. (From the Government website).

This is democracy in action! The Parish Council can recommend that Otford should develop a Neighbourhood Plan and can provide support but the plan itself must be resident-led. This is a tool for the residents of Otford to ensure that we get the right types of development, in the right place, to meet our ambitions. Like the Otford Parish Plan that was published some years ago, the Neighbourhood Plan will require a considerable amount of effort. Democracy also comes at a price. The price here is that Otford residents will have to give their valuable time to help shape our collective vision and to gather the evidence that will support that vision and ambition for the future of our Heritage Village. It affects us all and we will all need to contribute.

Over the next few weeks the Planning Committee will be determining what needs to be done - and then we will be calling for volunteers who can contribute to the process. If you have access to the Internet (at home or at Otford Library) who can find out more on neighbourhood planning at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>



Your Village needs you!



Over the past few weeks there have been incidences where people who are clearly **not** disabled have parked their car in one of the disabled bays in the High Street car park, displaying a blue badge issued to someone else. This is not only inconsiderate to those drivers who are disabled (or who have a disabled passenger) but is also an abuse of the terms under which the badge was issued. The Parish Council has agreed that where such misuse occurs, they will write to the authority that issued the badge, describing the circumstances. It is probable that this will result in the blue badge being withdrawn

Newsletter delivery

A big thank you to Becky for offering to cover the Rye Lane area. Now a newsletter deliverer is 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.

Hedges



Hedges are still growing at the moment and hanging over the public footway. This can cause a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight. Please check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.



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.



Table Top Sale

The Otford Evening WI are holding a Table Top Sale in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 14th October** between 9.00am and 12.00noon. Tables cost £10 and can be booked by calling Chris on 01959 522485. Entrance will be 50p, children free.

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.

Flu Jabs



Its flu jab time again. At Otford Surgery on **7th & 14th October and 4th November** and Kensing Surgery on **28th October**. All sessions are on a Saturday morning from 9am to 12.30pm.

Eligibility:

- a) Everyone aged 65 and over.
- b) Anyone between 6 months and 65 years of age at risk with a long-term condition such as diabetes, cardiac, renal, liver, neurological or respiratory disease.
- c) Anyone with a weakened immune system, pregnant women, carers and those living in long stay care facilities.
- d) All children who are aged 2 and 3 years of age will be offered the Fluenz nasal spray at the Practice. Older children 4 - 8 years of age will be offered this vaccine at school.

Please phone the practice to book your slot on 01959 524633 or 01959 523929 or pop in.

Otford Village Fete - Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on **Wednesday 18th October**, at 7.45pm at Otford Primary School. This evening will give residents the opportunity to hear how well the 2017 fete went and to learn more about our plans for 2018. Refreshments will be served during the evening. We hope to see as many local residents as possible, this is your fete and we want to hear your views.

The Committee is also looking for someone to take on the role of Sponsorship Manager. Whilst we have no problems attracting visitors, raising money is difficult and we hope to recruit someone, living in Otford, who might like to take on this key role. The job is not onerous, the Committee meet monthly between November and May on Wednesday evenings. The Committee is made up of a small number of volunteers who want to give something back to the village, if you feel you would like to join us we would love to hear from you.

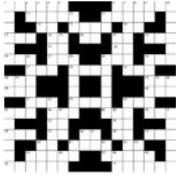
For more information please email Patty Chatterjee (patty.chatterjee@me.com)

Otford Oast WI



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 19th October** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will have a talk by Lucy Allen a '*Stunt Lady*'. 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 12th October** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall when Tim Morrey will talk about the '*Secrets of a Crossword Setter*'. Hopefully we will learn a few hints to help us complete that tricky crossword. Visitors are very welcome at the meetings and if further information is required please contact their President on 01959 524831.

The Otford Society

Tickets will go on sale soon for the Otford Society Community Party, which will be held from 6pm on **Saturday 25th November** in the Memorial Hall. Look out for posters appearing on noticeboards, including details of a special 'Early Bird' offer to secure discounted prices. This year, the party will feature live music by 'Cool Grove' as well as a bar, delicious hot food, a raffle with fabulous prizes, and more family-friendly entertainment to be confirmed.

Parent Talk - The Primary Years

A new course that covers essential topics for parents of children in the primary years. On **Mondays 2nd, 9th and 16th October** in St Bartholomew's Church Centre, The Green, Otford. If you are interested in going or would like to know more please contact Vicki on 01959 522413.

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.
- Story time, every Tuesday 2.30-3.00pm, term time only. No need to book and this is a free activity.
- 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 18th October** at 8pm, refreshments served from 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Paul Rason will talk about Nurse Edith Cavell. Adult subscription is £10. No charge for under 16's and visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting.

Prescription Letters

Recently letters have been delivered in the village concerning online prescriptions. This has nothing to do with Otford Surgery or Otford Pharmacy. Please continue to support and use your pharmacy.



Otford Gardeners' Society

Their final speaker of the year is Alan Sargent on **Tuesday 3rd October** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when he will make some 'Confessions of a Gardener'. Admission includes refreshments.

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church is holding a Women's Breakfast on **Saturday 7th October** at 8.30am in the Otford Methodist Church Hall. Go along and enjoy a lovely breakfast followed by their speaker Susie Flashman who is an ex Page 3 girl. She has a story to tell. £5 to be paid on the door. All ladies welcome. To book a place or for more information please call Sue Ward on 01959 535099.

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 October & early November are **4th and 18th October and 1st November**. Contact Hazel Terry on 01959 523047 for more details.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group

On **Thursday 5th October** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a talk by Simon Ginnaw on '*Wildlife around Kent*'. Enjoy a virtual tour around the Kent countryside, stopping off along the coast, deep in the woods, on our

heathlands and across our farmland. What Wildlife secrets will you discover? 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 19th October** when Phillipa Barton will talk about '*Furnishing the Arts and Crafts House; William Morris and his contemporaries*'. The English Arts and Crafts Movement was one of the most influential, profound and far reaching design movements of modern times. This lecture will look at the influential ideas of the movements precursors, Pugin, Ruskin and William Morris and how the designers of interiors and furnishings that they employed attempted to bring art back into the lives of ordinary people. For further information see the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach



The next surgery will take place on **Tuesday 3rd October** 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 Art Group Sale & Show



On **Saturday 21st October** between 10.30am and 3.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall the Otford Art Group are holding a sale and show of original paintings and cards, prints and notelets. A local woodturner will be bringing many lovely items for sale. Admission free. Tea/Coffee

available in the morning.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 28th October** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold their AGM then in the afternoon a talk by Linda Walsh on '*Will it go through the Printer?*' The meetings start at 10am and 2pm and end with tea and cakes at about 4pm. For further information please contact

'The Three Musketeers'



Otford 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 Otford Emporium, Otford 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 Otford Village Memorial Renovation Fund

Reviews:

Your cheeks will hurt from smiling so much - Broadway Baby

The funniest thing I have ever seen - Mumsnet

The Three Half Pints dazzle with well-executed Monty Python-esque humour - Three Weeks

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.



Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association

The next Social Gathering will be on **Monday 16th October** from 7.30pm at the Woodman Pub, High Street. We look forward to your joining us, perhaps bringing friends or neighbours. We shall be beginning to make plans for next year, so please come with your suggestions



hospicesofhope
making every day count
for terminally ill children and adults in
Romania and surrounding countries

Hospices of Hope Events

Murder Mystery Evening - **Saturday 7th October**

Bessels Green Baptist Church.

Ticket price of £15 to include a light supper (teams will consist of 8 detectives - individual bookings welcome. Drinks available to purchase. Tickets can be booked events@hospiceofhope.co.uk or

call Rebekah on 01959525110

Otford Front Garden Competition 2017



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

First prize - 49, Greenhill Road

Second Prize - 4, The Old Walk

Third Prize - 36, High Street

Highly Commended:

17, Tudor Crescent

57, Sidney Gardens

65, Pilgrims Way West

21 Dane Road

Commended:

35, The Charne

39, Hillydeal Road

33, Tudor Drive

Chantry Cottage, The Green

89, Well Road

22, Twitton Meadows

37, Knighton Road

13, Dane Road

21, Hale Lane

12, Hale Lane

9, Hale Lane

89, Willow Park

41, Willow Park

Heritage Centre artist for October - June Foreman



I have lived in Otford for 18 years. I have always enjoyed art but I was married at 19 and had two children by the time I was 25 so art was put on the back burner. Fifty years later after retiring from my job in social services and helping my husband in his business I joined the Otford Art Group after being on the waiting list for a year. This little dog has been drawn using oil crayons and pastels. I feel so blessed to be painting again after such a long time. If, you are reading this and wish you could paint and draw I would say don't wait 50 years, seize the day.

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

The work will be weather dependant

Ex-Service People Information & Advice Day



The Royal British Legion have organised an information and advice day for all ex-service people aged 65 and over and their families. This will take place on **Wednesday 25th October** at 10.30am in West Kingsdown Village Hall, London Road, West Kingsdown, TN15 6BZ. The event will provide an opportunity to meet some new people and talk to many organisations providing

health advice, social activities and more in your local area. Contact Michael Bishop on 07827 943609 or michael.bishop@rbli.co.uk for more information

Planning



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

SE/17/02607 **The Crown PH, 10, High Street**

Erection of a single storey rear glass seating area extension

SE/17/02612 **42, Well Road**

Demolition of existing attached garage. Erection of single storey side extension, with overhang to the front and side.

SE/17/02698 **35 Pilgrims Way West**

Partial demolition to the side. Erection of a side/rear extension with roof light.

SE/17/02685 **36 High Street**

Demolition of existing conservatory roof. Erection of new conservatory roof, first floor dormer to the rear and rooflight.

SE/17/02807 **8 High Street**

Part change of use from A1 to mixed use A1 & C£ residential. Demolition of existing rear outbuilding to facilitate the erection of a part single, part double storey side/rear extension and side dormer.

b. Results Received

SE//16/03283 **St Michael's School, St Michael's Drive**

Creation of an all-weather pitch with associated fencing and floodlighting

Refused

SE/17/01724 **Lorien, St Michaels' Drive**

Pitched roofs on the two rear dormer windows, amendments to fenestration, inclusion of a roof lantern and removal of window north-east elevation *Allowed*

SE/17/01931 **Maunders, St Michael's Drive**

Installation of three roof lights to rear and one roof light to side *Allowed*

SE/17/01887 **10 Shinecroft**

Erection of a first-floor side extension creating 2 new dormers. Extension to existing outbuilding and relocating an existing garage. *Allowed*

SE/17/02001 **Maycroft, Shoreham Road**

Demolition of an existing dwelling and garage. Construction of a replacement dwelling with associated landscaping. The reconfiguration of existing driveway and a replacement garage. *Allowed*

c. Trees

SE/17/02646 **Beech House, Pilgrims Way West**

To thin Silver Birch internal crown to a maximum of 15% (TPO)

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the November newsletter is **Weds 18th October**

Don't forget the clocks go back on 29th October

