

Otford Parish Council

October Newsletter 2015

No 246

Twinned with Neufchatel-Hardelot

Clerk: Mrs. S. Palmer

The School House, 21, High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PG

Telephone/answerphone: 01959 524808 Fax: 01959 525298

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 12th **October** and 9th **November** 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

New parking enforcement plans to help locals



Sevenoaks District Council is set to issue Penalty Charge Notices to drivers who park across dropped kerbs outside residents' homes. The Council already carries out enforcement action against drivers who park across dropped kerbs at junctions that are intended to make it easier for parents with pushchairs, mobility scooters and wheelchair users to cross the road. Sevenoaks District

Council is now extending this enforcement to include residential dropped kerbs. Generally these kerbs are lowered to enable vehicles to access private driveways and garages. In the past residents who found their driveway blocked by a vehicle could call the police to deal with the matter, although little was done. Now they can contact the Council's Parking Services Team and ask a Civil Enforcement Officer to attend and issue a Penalty Charge Notice. The Council will inform the caller when an Enforcement Officer can attend, which will depend on the Officer's location and the location of the offence.

If they have problems, residents should call the Council on 01732 227000 or e-mail parking@sevenoaks.gov.uk to ask for a Civil Enforcement Officer to attend their property.

Railway crossing



Conversations with SDC planning officers leave me to believe that there is very little they can do to prevent the bridge going ahead.

Network Rail has statutory rights and are allowed to construct just about anything on their land. They do however have to listen to consultees (SDC), but their input is limited. I have recommended that SDC make comment on the alternative design put forward by residents to try and reduce the impact. We will just have to wait and see whether Network Rail listens to the village or if their consultations were just a publicity stunt.



Parking comments

The parking consultation for Warham Rd and the Green has now been completed and we await the response of analysis being carried out by SDC. There have been one or two queries regarding aspects of the consultation and I will do my best to answer them. The loss of one space outside the chemist is to allow the island to be stretched to force drivers either onto the right or left hand side of the road to avoid clogging up the High Street. It will not affect Blue Badge holders as they are allowed to park on double yellows for a limited period, providing they do not obstruct the traffic. It has been suggested that arrows painted on the road would have the same effect, but the road is not wide enough to create two separate lanes with the cars parked there and it is not OPC's wish to remove the limited parking all together. A question was also raised as to "why don't we have a proper roundabout with all roads giving way to the right?" Well if we did, there would certainly not be any parking in front of the shops as you are not allowed to park on a roundabout. Also if the pond is converted into a conventional roundabout it would become the property of Kent Highways, who could if they wish, remove the listed status and simply concrete it over. Another question was "Why do we need yellow lines on the Sevenoaks road opposite where the cars are now parking and along Station Road?" Simply because, without them drivers would park there even though they would be idiots - and there are plenty about!

Your village shops / public houses



Now Autumn is definitely with us, have a look in all your lovely independent village shops with their new stocks and wonderful window displays. There is so much on offer. No need to travel to Bluewater for that special gift. Also discover the new treatments on offer at your hair and beauty shops and have a drink and meal out in our pubs and restaurant. Its all here within your own village.

STOP PRESS The Otford Christmas Shopping Festival will take place this year between 11am and 4pm on **Sunday 29th November** so put that date in your diary now.



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.

Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 6th October** when Russell Bowes will talk about the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net



Otford Front Garden Competition 2015

First Prize - 49, Greenhill Road
Second Prize - 4, The Old Walk
Third Prize - 39, Greenhill Road
Highly Commended - 1, Great Till Cloe
Highly Commended - 19, Hale Lane
Highly Commended - 21, Hale Lane

Commended -17, Rye Lane

Commended - 22, Rye Lane

Commended - 30, The Charne

Commended - 16, Twitton Meadows

Commended - 27, Twitton Meadows

Commended - 9, Hale Lane

Commended - 20, Hale Lane

Commended - 13, Dane Road

Commended - 21, Dane Road

Commended - 41, Willow Park

Commended - 8, Willow Park

Commended - 2, Coombe Road

Commended - Chartlands, St Michael's Drive

Commended - 37, High Street

Congratulations to all our prize winners. Thank you for all your efforts and thank you to the Gardeners Society for organising the judging.

Otford & District Historical Society



The next meeting of the new programme will take place on **Wednesday 21st October** at 8.00pm (teas and biscuits available from 7.30pm) in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Dr Ann Kneif will talk about '*Kent seaside resorts up to 1914*' Adult subscriptions are £8 per year, joint/family £14 and visitors are welcome at each lecture for £3.

Otford Library

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).

Child Health Event

The Otford Patient Group, supported by Sevenoaks District, is organizing another Health Education event - this time focusing on children's health issues. The date is **Saturday 10th October**, the time is 10am to 1.15pm and the venue is Otford Primary School in Otford High Street. The Day is aimed mainly at parents of pre-primary and primary school children and will cover the issues of childhood ailments and immunisations, allergies and intolerances, mental and emotional health. These will be presented by Dr Rajan from the Otford Medical Practice, plus a Paediatrician and a Child Psychologist. Then a full question and answer session at the

end. We will also have information stands in the Hall and light refreshments throughout the day. The presentations may not actually be suitable for the children themselves but we hope to have a small amount of space for children's activities in a separate room if you do need to bring children along. Enquiries to 01959 522490

Otford Players Quiz Evening



The Otford Players are holding a Quiz evening in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 17th October** at 7.30pm. Tables of 8ish. Make up your own table or groups can be combined with others. Tickets are £5. Bring your own drink and nibbles. Call 01959 522710, 01892 263112 or e-mail otfordplayers@gmail.com.

Otford Players



The Otford Players next productions will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Friday 13th and Saturday 14th November** at 7.30pm.

None the Wiser - Five nuns have made their home in rented accommodation in Otford with a view to interacting with the local community. Two more nuns arrive and plan to stay whether welcomed or not. The result is a comical turn of events, which would challenge most convents.

Nothing Left to Say - A light-hearted drama about friendship and relationships, both romantic and fraternal. *Nothing Left to Say* charts the paths of brothers Luke and James, and their respective partners Kim and Amy, as they make decisions that will change their future.

Tickets are £8 from 01959 525404 or 07825 270708 or otfordplayers@otford.net

Denise Thompson Designer Florist Autumn Workshop



On **Wednesday 14th October** at 7pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall Denise Thompson our village's own designer florist is offering the chance for you to come and create your own beautiful autumn display. The cost will be £35. Everything will be provided (except scissors/secateurs - please bring your own) and light refreshments will add to the fun. Places are always limited so please call 01959 525009 to book your place. Denise will also again be holding a Christmas Wreath making workshop on **Wednesday 2nd December**, places go fast so book now so you are not disappointed. Cost will also be £35.

Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning



The next Social Gathering with an activity is at the Woodman in Otford on **Monday 5th October** at 7.30pm. We shall look forward to seeing you. Please let us have any requests you may have for 2016. We are beginning to make plans and are particularly keen to encourage families with children of all ages to benefit from our contacts in Hardelot. Jane Lawrey c/o Otford Parish Council.

Oxford Evening WI

Oxford Evening WI will meet on **Thursday 8th October** at 7.30pm in the Oxford Village Memorial Hall. The speaker will be Colin Breed who will give them an amusing look behind the scenes at the protection of the Royals. If you would like to join the President would be pleased to hear from you and can be contacted on 01959 524831. Then make a note in your diary for the Boot Sale shown below.

Boot Sale



We all need to do it don't we, so why not have a good clean out of your attic or garage and then book yourself a table at the W.I Boot Sale being held in Oxford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 24th October** between 9.30am and 12 noon.

Tables are £10 so contact Chris on 01959 522485 to book yours. Entrance will be 50p with children free and refreshments will be available.

Oxford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 15th October** when they will be looking at 'Make Up with Clarins'. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Barbara Singleton Green on 01959 525515 for more details

Book Fair



The next Oxford Book Fair will take place on **Saturday 7th November** in Oxford Village Memorial Hall between 9am and 2.30pm - Free admission. Refreshments are available.

Coffee call for Heritage Centre volunteers

Everyone who shares in the work of Oxford Heritage Centre as a volunteer, or would be pleased to consider doing so, is warmly invited to come for coffee (or tea) there at any time between 10.30am and 12 noon on **Thursday, 29 October**. At 11.30 Ed Thompson will tell us about a present or future display, but this apart, it will be an opportunity to make or renew friendships and discuss informally the opportunities open to volunteers, however young or old they may be. If you would like to come - and you will be most welcome - please tell Tina Freke (01959 524661) since space is limited. A similar event will be arranged for those for whom attendance on a weekday morning is out of the question because of work, school or college commitments.

The Oxford Society - A Night at The Races



A night at the races is a fun way for the family to spend the evening and the Oxford Village Society are hoping that this new event in their programme will attract newcomers as well as existing members. The event takes place on **Saturday 10th October** and the venue is the Oxford Village Memorial Hall, which will be set out with tables and chairs and a big screen on which to watch the races. A 'race card' is provided

from which you pick a horse name you like or your favourite number or one that you think will win the race, and place your bet. Films of races are shown and if you are lucky and your horse does well, you collect your prize.

Bets are £1 each so, if you bet on a horse in each of the 8 races, your maximum spend would be £8.

A fish and chip supper is included in the ticket price and you can bring your own drinks. There will be a fun quiz with a prize during the interval when the fish and chips are served.

Tickets are £10 each and available in a number of ways:-

- At Yvonne's shop
- At The Emporium
- At the Parish Council Offices
- On the website <http://www.sevenoaksforum.com/forums/otford.19/>
- By emailing the Society at chairman@otfordsociety.org.uk
- By telephoning 07877 0160266

Doors open at 6.30pm and the event will start at 7pm and end at approximately 10pm.

For more information please contact: Jeff Davies 01732 761644, Dan Yates 01959 523681 or Peter Robinson 07713 248642.

Darent Valley Choir

The Darent Valley Choir is going back to their birthplace in 1981, for the Christmas concert this year. It is to be held at St Martin's Church, Eynsford DA4 0EH on the **Saturday 12th December** at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available at Sevenoaks Bookshop or at the door. We hope you will be able to join us.'

Otford Railway Pedestrian Level Crossing



The Otford Village Society facilitated a meeting 21st August between Network Rail, and parish councillors, district councillors and county councillors and residents to discuss Network Rail's planning application for a footbridge to replace the existing pedestrian level crossing. The meeting was called

as an action from the Society's comments in their objection to the granting of planning permission for the footbridge.

Network Rail presented their reasoning behind the proposed closure of the level crossing, and the options considered before arriving at their current proposal for a footbridge, which would result in the felling of 6 trees that provide sound and sight protection for affected residents. The meeting lasted 2 ½ hours including robust discussion and concluded in agreement that Network Rail would:-

Share their Narrative Risk Assessment such that villagers could understand how the rating was arrived at.

Look at the alternative options of:-

- installing Miniature Stop Lights
- installing raising barriers, with safe refuges
- the alternative footbridge that avoids felling trees, although villagers still oppose any footbridge.

The Network Rail representatives were thanked for their attendance, patience and response to the questions asked.

The Otford Village Society - Autumn Meeting



The meeting will be held on **Thursday 15th October** at 8 pm in the Memorial Hall. Attendees at our Garden Party will know we donate the proceeds of our raffle there to Kent Air Ambulance, and they have kindly agreed to speak at the meeting on their operation and good work. Committee members will also give updates on their works this year.

Whilst the meeting is for members, we are recruiting new members so do come along and join on the night - it only costs £5/annum/home and you will be supporting the Society in its efforts for the village.



Who Let the Dads Out?

Calling all dads, grand-dads, uncles, in fact any male carer of children under the age of 10 from in or around Otford. Have you heard of the Toast Club and wondered what it is? Or do your children go to the Toast club and want more? Well on the dates shown below between 3.30pm and 5.30 pm at Otford Methodist Church Hall, in conjunction with St. Bart's, we will be hosting the first of our regular "Who Let the Dads Out? (Otford)" events.

WLtDO? (Otford) is a family oriented fun-time, with food provided, for male carers (sorry ladies) to spend quality time with their children, to meet other dads and carers or even to just relax while the children have fun. There will be lots for the children to do; bouncy castle, toys, stories, crafts, computer zone etc.

So gentlemen, why not give your partner a well-earned break and bring your bundles of joy along to have fun and make new friends.

Future dates all in Otford Methodist Church Hall:

- 10th October 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- 14th November 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- 12th December 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- 9th January 2016 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



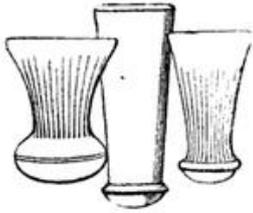
The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 31st October** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold their AGM and have a talk by Jennifer Hughes on 'Burmese Textiles'. The meetings start at 10am and 2pm and end with tea and cakes at about 4pm. For further information please contact Sylvia Grafton on

01732 452117.

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church would like to invite ladies to their October Women's Breakfast and talk by their invited speaker Annie Gale. The breakfast starts at 08.30am on **Saturday 17th October**. There is a £5 cost payable on the door.

For any further information please call Sue Ward on 01959 535099 or email to johnandsueward@btinternet.com



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. Their theme for this year is 'Ceramics & Glass through History'. The next lecture is on **Thursday 15th October** by Jane Gardiner on '*A Pictorial History of Drinking Glasses*'.

For further information see the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.



Heritage Centre Artist for October

The artist for October is Jeanne Prestage. "We moved to Otford in 1964 with a young family. Once the family had grown and left home I had some 'me' time, I made use of it by enrolling in many Adult Educational classes including art. After a number of years I joined the Otford Art Group where one is free to experiment in techniques, ideas and mediums. Having dabbled in many of the mediums available my preference is for Acrylics which I find are very flexible. The picture displayed of Otford Palace is however pen ink and watercolour".

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group

On **Thursday 1st October** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a talk by Dr Barry Yates on 'Managing the birds at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Barry is the manager of Rye Harbour reserve which has undergone significant conservation work over recent years making it a superb area for flora and fauna.

Hospice of Hope Events

Shine Bright Like a Diamond

Saturday 10th October at 7pm - Salomans, Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells - Tickets £40 per person 1 person free if you book a table of 10 at any time

To include arrival drink & Canapes, a fabulous 2 course meal, wine & coffee followed by the change to dance the night away! Dress code best party attire.

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

Ladies Lunch with Cheese Expert and Tasting

Thursday 15th October at 12 noon - Clockhouse Suite at RowHill Grange Hotel

£27 per person to include an arrival drink, two course luncheon with a glass of wine and coffee with mint chocolates. Join them for a delightful luncheon with cheese expert William Cohen from Cheeseworks, who will be sharing his expertise and offering a tasting session with four different cheeses. For tickets please contact amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk/ 01959 525110

Romania Fashion for Hope

Saturday 17th October 7.00pm - Romanian Cultural Institute, 1 Belgrave Square,

London Come and join us for a brilliant evening with a catwalk show with Romanian fashion designers. Cristina Ghivnici, Bohemian fashion designer Kites and Bites, Caterina Stratan and Ioana Stoica. **Tickets £40 per person** (Discounted to £35 if booked prior to 1st September) includes wine, canapés and live music. For tickets please contact amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk/ 01959 525110

Oxford United Football Club

Oxford United Football Club would like to express their thanks to resident Paul Peacock for his time, knowledge and help repairing their ride on mower.

Halloween



We know that many people are worried about people coming to their door at Halloween, particularly those calling late in the evening, and especially if you live on your own. You do not have to answer the door to them. You can make this clear by displaying a poster as above. These are available from the Parish Council and Paul our Community Warden.

OVMH Refurbishment



Oxford Village Memorial Hall is at The Very Heart of our Community - used by many of our clubs and societies, a focal point for Village culture and activities. You will, undoubtedly, have noticed that OVMH requires considerable maintenance and updating. The toilets, no longer in the first flush, need upgrading, and the kitchens could do with a bit of a "bakeover"!

Oxford Village Memorial Hall was built in 1954, following a public appeal for funds, as a permanent memorial to the dead and wounded of WW1 and WW2. The Club Room was added in 1983, but generally speaking the sole source of income for the maintenance and upkeep of the hall is from lettings and occasional fund raising activities. In 2014, (the 100th Anniversary of The Great War) the Trustees agreed to embark upon a much needed and extensive refurbishment.

The plan:

- Upgrade all toilet facilities using energy and water efficient sanitary ware and hand dryers;
- Rebuild the disabled toilet to make it more private;
- Replace Shower Room fittings using energy and water efficient devices;
- Replace the Main Hall Boilers working in tandem so that if one fails the other can continue to provide a reasonable temperature;
- Replace the Club Room Kitchen; upgrade the Hope Room by replacing its ceiling, flooring, lighting and install a better sound and heat insulation so that it can be used as a meeting room and potential IT suite;
- Upgrade the Hearing Loop in the Main Hall and install a Hearing Loop in the Club Room.

Fund raising for this major project is now underway - we need £82,000. The Trustees, by prudent management, have built up a fund of £20,000 and the Village Fete Committee will kindly donate a sizable amount from the proceeds of the 2015 village fete. The Parish Council, Evening W.I., The Oxford Society, The Luncheon Club and The Kent Dahlia Society Club have also made pledges totalling £1,800. KCC have granted us £22,200 and SDC a further £500 with another grant application in the pipeline. We are now approaching individuals and have so far received or been pledged £300.

Even with the above, it is entirely possible that we will have a shortfall of perhaps £20,000 - even more if grant applications are rejected or reduced.

To this end we are asking for your help and support. Maybe you would like to hold a fund raising event - or simply give a donation - large (would be excellent) or small (which will be hugely appreciated)!

OVMH is a community asset we treasure and appreciate immensely - I'm sure most of us have used the Hall at some time (even if it's only to vote once every 5 years!) If you are willing and able to help bring the Hall into the 21st century, please send your donation by cheque to:- Derek Buck, Honorary Treasurer (OVMH) 69 Knighton Road, Otford TN14 5LE - or by BACS to OVMH Sort Code 72.06-00 A/c No. 38481170 (please mail ovmh.treasurer@otford.net with your name and amount donated.

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/15/01974 3 Flowerfield

Demolition of existing porch and garage. Erection of single storey front extension and single storey rear extension. Erection of part single storey part two storey side extension. Internal alterations and extension to front driveway.

SE/15/02348 Unit 3, Block 9 Vestry Road

Installation of 5 no. air conditioning condenser units, house in white coated steel cages for protection extractor vent to east and west elevations and signage on east and north elevations.

SE/15/02359 Unit 3, Block 9 Vestry Road

1 no. internally illuminated retail fascia, 1 no. externally illuminated trade fascia, 2 no. non-illuminated fascia signs, 2 no. external vinyl signboards.

SE/15/02418 58 Well Road

Erection of tree house

SE/15/02691 The Grange, High Street

Temporarily dismantle and set aside an existing set of painted timber gates and temporary removal of painted brick gate post to improve site access to The Grange for construction traffic.

SE/15/02690 The Grange, High Street

Demolition of existing swimming pool and surrounds

SE/15/02751 The Grange, High Street

Demolition of an existing chimney and proposed minor alterations to the roof form and fenestration pattern of the approved.

SE/15/02209 Mulberry Cottage, Row Dow

Proposed rear orangery for use as a kitchen. Proposed construction of rear dormer and increase height of three front dormers.

SE/15/01594 Burfield, Pilgrims Way East

Enlargement of garage door, amend the roof to hips and the installation of an additional roof light to rear. Relocation of rear garage door to right flank elevations and amend the rear elevation to render. Installation of side lights to entrance door to garage extension.

SE/15/02666 25 High Street

Erection of a single storey part flat and part pitched roofed rear extension with roof lights.

b. Results Received

SE/15/01647 **93 Willow Park**
Erection of single storey side extension *Allowed*

SE/15/01972 **9 The Old Walk**
Proposed enlargement of existing garage and fire door into house *Refused*

SE/15/02131 **7 Hale Lane**
Demolition of a detached garage to the rear and porch of side elevation. The erection of a side garage extension for car and storage and creation of a new hard-standing area. *Refused*

SE/15/01766 **57 Pilgrims Way West**
Demolition of existing garage and rear extension, removal of existing roof. The erection of new side/ rear extensions. *Allowed*

c. Appeals

G2245/C/14/3000479 **49 High Street**
Erection of 3 dormer windows Appeal Dismissed

d. Trees

SE/15/02735 **The Grange, High Street**
Fell 1 Yew Tree

SE/15/02774 **The Chantry, The Green**
Various works to trees



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

Rubbish and Garden Bags

Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £13.50 for 25. It avoids all those trips to the tip. Rolls of black sacks at £1.50 and white sacks at 50p are also available. Please try and bring the right money.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the November Newsletter will Thursday 22nd October

Don't forget the clocks go back on 25th October

