

Otford Parish Council

October Newsletter 2016

No 256

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 **10th October** and **14th November** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Chairman's Report



Just to remind residents that the cutting back of vegetation on footpaths in the village is the responsibility of Kent County Council. Please contact them on 03000 417171 if you find a problem somewhere. Kent County Council are also responsible for anything to do with roads, pavements, verges and drains. Please contact them direct on 03000 418181 with any problems.

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 help the office and bring the right money.



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.



Thank you to Paulette for taking over delivering newsletters in Station Road and many thanks to Brenda for delivering there for so many years.

Table Top Sale



The Otford Evening WI are holding a Table Top Sale in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 22nd October** between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Tables are selling fast. They cost £10 and can be booked by calling Chris on 01959 522485.

French Flea



French Flea arrives at Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 1st October** from 10am till 3.30 pm. There will be a sale of Vintage Treasures; be they French, Continental or English. French Flea will be showcasing Vintage Homeware,

Kitchenalia, Decorative gardenware, Clothes, Jewellery, gifts and much more from in excess of 20 specialist traders. This fair is a must for all lovers of Vintage. Enjoy music from past decades and stop for a well-deserved refreshment break in the French Café & Creperie from French Revolution. Entrance is £1 per adult. Have a look at www.cherishthevintage.co.uk or telephone Julia on 07885610912 .

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-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning



Our next social gathering will be on **Monday 24th October** at 7.30pm in the rear bar of the Woodman PH. We will be reviewing activities of the past year and discussing plans for next year. New members are very welcome to pop in. Any queries please contact Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360.

Otford Oast WI



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 17th October** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Melanie Gibson-Barton will talk about the *'Life & Times of Edith Cavell'*. 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 & District Historical Society



The next meeting of the 2016/17 Winter programme will be on **Wednesday 19th October** at 8pm, refreshments served from 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Ciaran Duke will talk about '*Battlefields to Bromley - care of the injured Tommy in the First World War*'. 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 13th October** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall when Colin Breed will give part 2 of his amusing look behind the scenes at the protection of the Royals who have visited Kent. Visitors are most welcome and more information is available by contacting their President on 01959 524831.

Otford Village Fete

The Report from this year's AGM can be found on the website (www.otford.info/villagefete)

Plans are underway for the 2017 fete when the theme will be 'Tudor Otford'. We will be giving more details during the coming months but, as usual, the fete will be held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 29th May.

Once again we are looking for someone to take over the role of Treasurer. This is not an onerous role but knowledge of accounts is naturally important. The committee meet once a month, in the evenings, between December and July. We are a great bunch of hard-working volunteers but we need a new Treasurer, without this role being filled there is a danger of the fete being cancelled. As we regularly have over 5,000 visitors and there has been a fete in Otford for more than 85 years this decision would not be taken lightly but no committee can function if this key role is not filled.

For more information, please email the Chair, Patty.Chatterjee@me.com

Otford Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 4th October** when Sally Berkeley will talk about '*The Victorian Kitchen Garden*' Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net



Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild Exhibition

The 15th Anniversary Exhibition of the Guild will take place on **Saturday 29th October** in Otford Village Hall between 11am and 4pm. For further information please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 6th October** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Simon Ginnaw will talk about '*Birds beyond the boughs*'. Simon is the senior ranger at Riverside Country Park. The lives of our woodland birds can be hard to discover. Join Simon as he reveals the secret lives and fascinating ecology behind our woodland birds. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.

Otford Village Society - Good News!

Since the Society AGM, in April the committee has kept a watchful eye on events including reviewing and commenting on the study on East Facing M26 slip roads, one option for which was at Otford using the flood plain. Fortunately, it appears that the economic case for any slip roads has worsened since 2009, and that Otford is not considered the prime location.

The next piece of good news is that we have been very fortunate to have new volunteers join the committee, with the following roles

Juliet Stephens- Social Events Coordinator

Andy Cotton - Treasurer (to take over fully when Derek Buck retires in December)

Claire Henry -Walks Leaflet Coordinator/ KCC Transport Plan Reviewer

With new blood we are able to do more.

The first initiative is that we have the Memorial Hall booked for the evening of **Saturday 3rd December** for the first event organised by our new committee. Further details will be posted in the Parish Council Newsletter, on notice boards and in Church and School magazines if possible.

Also, Claire is leading the Society review of the Kent County Council draft Transport Plan for 2016 to 2030, to ensure that our views are fed back during the consultation.

A good number of Otford buildings do already have some planning protection, but one of our members noted that a number of buildings of importance such as The Crown are not listed and are consequently at risk. Whilst it is too late for the current works at the Methodist church and The Crown, the committee is planning to seek nominations from the village community for buildings that they consider

should be formally protected, with a view to compiling a list of additions to take forward with the authorities.

For the Society to continue to have the respect of local authorities it needs to have a large number of supporters; registration so far has been slow. Register now as a supporter by emailing membership@otfordsociety.org.uk and we'll keep you informed about Society affairs and ways in which you can help to improve and maintain our amazing village.

Can you help? Please email chairman@otfordsociety.org.uk (without commitment) if you would like to help with Society projects or events.

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 20th October** when Felicity Herring will talk about '*A journey to the Holy Lane with David Roberts*'. For further information see the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

Denise Thompson Designer Florist Autumn Workshop



On **Wednesday 5th 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 7th December** and a table/mantle arrangement workshop on **Wednesday 14th December**. Places go fast so book now so you are not disappointed. Cost will also be £35.

Guide Dogs Sponsored Walk



Guide Dogs sponsored walk, marking its 85th year, is coming to Otford. The South East branch is marking this notable milestone with an 85 mile walk across the region. It starts at their Hove office on 4th October, ending on 8th October at their main office in Maidstone. Four dogs were originally trained in a Liverpool garage in 1931. The resulting Guide Dogs Association now has over 5,000 dogs in service, supports over 2,000 children with mobility and IT needs, and over 800 adults with volunteer sighted guides.

Otford's "Dog Mobile" (tandem decorated as a dog with ambassadors on board) will join the walk on **Friday 7th October**. The procession leaves the Bricklayers Arms Public House in Chipstead at 10.30am, aiming for The Village Green in Otford around lunchtime.

The Southeast branch hopes to raise £5,000 to maintain and develop local services. The Dog Mobile will champion Guide Dogs as well as sister charities providing canine support for those with physical difficulties, suffering stress at home or school, or in need of early warnings of developing medical problems.

Please join the Otford walk and/or donate via this Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Guide-Dogs-85for85>

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. They next meet on **Wednesday 5th & 19th October** between 9.30am - 11.30am term time only.

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).

Are you interested in tracing your Kent ancestors?

Come along and meet the author David Wright a professional genealogist, historian and writer who will be talking about his new book 'Tracing Your Kent Ancestors', a guide for family and local historians at Kemsing Library on

Tuesday 18th October at 2pm. Tickets £2.00. For more details, please contact staff at Kemsing or Otford Library on 03000 41 31 31.

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.

Oxford Patient Participation Group

Are you Eligible for a Flu Vaccine?



Appointments are now available at Oxford and Kemsing Surgeries for the following groups of patients:-

- Children aged 2, 3 and 4 (School age children in Years 1,2 and 3 will be offered vaccination at school)
- Adults over 65
- Pregnant Mothers
- Carers
- Adults under 65 with any of the following:-

Diabetes; Heart, Lung (COPD/Asthma), Liver or Kidney conditions

Dates

Saturday 1st October - Kemsing (adults only)

Saturday 8th October - Oxford

Saturday 15th October - Oxford

Saturday 22nd October - Kemsing

Phone 01959 523929 to book your appointment NOW.

Diabetes Event

Diabetes can be a devastating disease and one which has been described as being at epidemic level in the UK. You may be living with the disease yourself, anxious to avoid it or concerned for a relative or friend. The Oxford Medical Practice's Patient Group is holding an event at Oxford Methodist Church Hall **on Saturday**

22nd October A GP and a specialist nurse from the Practice will speak on a range of diabetes issues between 10.00 and 11.15 and answer your questions. After a refreshment break, there will be the opportunity to learn how to use one of the defibrillators now located in and around Otford. Please join us for one or both of these sessions."



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.

Open Gardens 2017



It's always a proud moment when your garden comes into full bloom and you can stand back and enjoy the results of your creativity and hard work. And there's a special reward in being able to share your achievements with admiring visitors.

Hospice in the Weald is inviting you to open your gates for a day to gardening enthusiasts and share the delights of your garden and raise money for a great cause at the same time.

The Hospice's Open Gardens brochure each year features a varied and enticing choice of gardens which this year brought in £25,000 for the charity. But the organisers would love to expand the range even further in 2017.

"It's always exciting to see new gardens which the owners might never have considered putting on show," said Pam Coleman, who runs the hospice's Open Gardens scheme. "We'd love to be able to offer an even greater choice."

There's no limit to the style of garden that visitors might enjoy - small ones to inspire creativity, larger areas to explore, gardens for wildlife enthusiasts and interesting ideas for fruit and vegetable plots.

Pam says: "Gardens can be small, big or quirky as long as they are interesting and reflect the owners' passion for gardening. We would like to invite gardeners to contact us this autumn ready for the next brochure. Owners need not be nervous about taking part - many who have done so often tell us how much pleasure they get from the comments and interest of enthusiastic visitors. "And there's the reward of knowing they are helping the Hospice's drive to raise £7million a year to keep our vital services free for the patients who need them "

For more details, call Pam Coleman on 01892 820502 or email pam.coleman@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Relate West & Mid Kent



We are a local charity called Relate. We specialise on improving people's relationships. This includes a whole range of relationships from couple's

relationships to families such as father/ son, mother /daughter.

We provide couples and family counselling at our 3 centres in Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. 80% of the couples and families that we see report an improvement in their relationships and stay together. The remainder separate in an amicable way that includes thinking about the impact on the children and minimises any fallout from the separation.

Building strong resilient relationships is fantastic for the wider community. Strong families support each other through the hurdles in life, everything from illness, redundancy, mental illnesses and loss of a family member.

We are self-funded most of our local authority funding has stopped. Consequently, we generally have to charge for our services, however through help from local parishes we can then offer reduced or free sessions to families who cannot afford to pay for the counselling.

One session costs us £50 to deliver. 6 sessions can change people's lives.

If a child is self-harming suicidal or anorexic they will often need 12-20 sessions. The appointments contact details are 01892 529927 or e-mail appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk

Sevenoaks Literary Festival



This is now the 14th year of the Festival which takes place in various venues in Sevenoaks until **Friday 7th October**.

View the full programme on the website at

www.sevlitfest.com. Tickets are available from Sevenoaks Bookshop on 01732 452055

Heritage Centre Artist for October

Betty Cooper



Betty moved to Otford 19 years ago, after her husband retired and their daughters and sons had left home. With more time to spare she joined the Otford Art Group and now enjoys painting every week. Her preference of medium is watercolour of which this is an example. For the last few years Betty has been the main organiser of the Otford

Arty Group which as a result of her efforts has flourished and considerably increased in membership.



UK Power Networks - New Power cut number

The number, which is available to electricity customers in England, Scotland and Wales, will enable people to report or get information about power cuts as well as report damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put themselves, or someone else, in danger. 105 is funded and delivered by the electricity network operators, and is a first for the UK's energy industry.

As well as calling 105, people can find more information on the website: <http://www.powercut105.com/>

You can find more information on the Energy Networks Association's website: <http://www.energynetworks.org/info/powercut105.html>.

UK Power Networks still runs a Priority Services Register for people who may be more vulnerable in a power cut e.g. older people and those dependent on medical equipment, parents of young children etc. If you would like to join the register please call 0800 169 9970, email psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk or apply online at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority.

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/16/02011 38 Tudor Crescent

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

SE/16/02286 10 Shinecroft

Single storey rear and first floor flank dormer extension and loft conversion with dormer window and extension to the outbuilding/ studio and a replacement garage.

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

Change of use from offices to a dwelling

SE/16/02313 Hillway, Pilgrims Way East

Change of existing ground level

SE/16/02642 Willow House, Sevenoaks Road

Demolition of existing side extension. Construction of a two storey side extension. Single storey rear extension. Construction of living accommodation in roof space.

b. Results Received

SE/16/01659 Llamedos, Shoreham Road

Minor material amendment to application SE/15/00559 (Minor material amendment to SE/14/03848 - Demolition of the existing detached property subdivision of the plot and the construction of two new detached dwellings to show lowering of ground floor level at rear, flipped garage configuration and an orangery to plot 2) to show proposed Air Source Heat Pump to plot 1& 2 located at the rear of the properties adjacent to the railway line. Conversion to garage space to provide storage. *Allowed*

SE/16/01748 Land to the South of Fairacre Wood, Shoreham Road

Minor material amendment to application SE/15/00246 for the proposed detached dwelling on land adjacent to Fairacre Wood. In order to remove photovoltaic panels on the roof and make alterations to the fenestration, including the removal of dormer and inclusion of high level roof lights. *Allowed*

SE/16/01787 Fairacre Wood, Shoreham Road

Demolition of existing sun room and kitchen, to allow for the erection of a single storey rear and side extension, with addition of roof lights. Conversion of double garage into habitable space. Various internal and fenestration alterations *Allowed*

SE/16/01812 **13, The Old Walk**
Demolition of existing sun room and kitchen, to allow for the erection of a single storey rear and side extension, with addition of roof lights. Conversion of double garage into habitable space. Various internal and fenestration alterations
Allowed

SE/16/01826 **2, New Barns Farm Cottages, Telston Lane**
First floor extension to front elevation on timber supports
Refused

SE/16/01466 **Conway House, Vestry Road**
Main entrance sign advertising company
Allowed

SE/16/01904 **Orchard Hey, Rye Lane**
Demolition of existing barn. The Erection of a stable building
Allowed

SE/16/01749 **Land to the South of Fairacre Wood, Shoreham Road**
Erection of a detached garage on land adjacent to Fairacre Wood, to be incorporated into residential curtilage of previously approved dwelling
Refused

c. Appeals

SE/16/00066 **Kent House, The Green**
Erection of a single storey rear extension, alteration to entrance gateway and swimming pool in garden
Allowed

d. Trees

SE/16/02620 **76 High Street**
Work to trees in a conservation area. Fell and grind out stump to Elder tree encroaching on neighbouring property.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the November Newsletter will be **Monday 17th October**

Don't forget the clocks go back on 30th October

