

Otford Parish Council

September Newsletter 2016

No 255

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 **12th September** and **10th October** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Newsletter Deliverers

If anyone is willing to deliver in Station Road please could they contact the office it is only 10 times a year for 30-40 minutes. Many thanks.

Chairman's Report



Otford Primary Schools 11th Reunion will be held between 11.30am and 4pm on **Saturday 3rd September** at the Rising Sun, Twitton and you are invited to go along and meet up with old school friends, and staff from the 1940's 50's, 60's and early 70's. A pre-ordered buffet will be available at £6 per head. Contact Nick Staples on 01732 843116 or otford.reunion@outlook.com.



Could all householders who have water courses going through their gardens like Willow Park please keep them clear of debris as if they get blocked up by garden rubbish or other items then this can cause serious flooding as it has quite recently.



You might have seen the new dog poo stencils around the village pavements/paths. Dog fouling is still a problem which it shouldn't be. Always pick up after your dog, it is your responsibility, nobody else, it might be the down side of dog ownership but essential. If you get caught you can face a £1000 fine so please do the right thing.



The same with litter, don't leave it for somebody else to pick up, put it in a bin, there are numerous bins around the village which are emptied frequently. Help keep you village looking nice.



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



and we shall look forward to seeing you.

Our Hardelot Twins are coming to Otford on a car-sharing weekend **23rd-25th September**. If you would like to offer hospitality please contact Jane Lawrey by email kl@sevmail.co.uk If you would like to meet them for tea and cake on the Friday afternoon between 4.30pm and 6.30pm in the Club Room of the Village Hall please offer to bring a cake

Otford Youth Singing Group



A new group is being formed for young people aged 9 to 17 to enjoy some fun learning to sing. The group will meet once each month for an hour on a Sunday afternoon, and is open to those from within our church, from local schools and from the village. It doesn't matter if you can already sing - or not! Just come along. The aim is to start in September, but there may be a taster session during the summer. If you are interested, please contact St Bartholomew's Church office or phone 01959 523185.

Football Club request for Mower

Otford United Football Club would like to thank Ron Samuel for the mower he kindly gave them.

Otford Oast WI



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 15th September** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. This talk will be about 'The Real Downton Abbey (domestic service in the early 20th century)'. 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 first meeting of the 2016/17 Winter programme will be on **Wednesday 21st September** at 8pm, refreshments served from 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Rod Shelton will give a talk on *'The Rise & Fall of Lullingstone Roman Villa'*. 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 8th September** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall when John Llewellyn-Jones will talk about *'The History of Pearls and Pearl Jewellery'*. Their President can be contacted on 01959 524831 for further information.

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 cost £10 and can be booked by calling Chris on 01959 522485.

Valuation Day - Antiques & Collectables



In aid of the Sevenoaks Branch of Guide Dogs there will be a Valuation Day held in Otford Church Hall, High Street on **Saturday 10th September** between 10am and 1pm. Your 'treasures' will be valued by Catherine Southon the expert from tv programmes Bargain Hunt and Flog It. Donation 1st item £5, then £2 each, max 5 items per person. Refreshments will be available.

The Autumn Flower & Craft Show



The Autumn Flower Show will take place on **Saturday 3rd September** between 2.15 - 4.15pm. This is the final show of the year and on display will be the best of the season's flowers, fruit and vegetables. There will also be cookery, photographic and flower arrangement classes as well as classes for handicrafts and art. Admission is 50p and homemade teas are available until 4pm

Otford Gardeners' Society

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 6th September** when Glyn Bareham will be giving a talk about *'Every Picture tells a story'*. 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



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 24th September** in Otford Village Hall when there will be an all day workshop with Lorna Bateman on entitled *'Beaded Embroidery'*. 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.

Get into gear with more free cycle rides



Residents and visitors wishing to have fun and get fit for free can now do so with cycle rides offered by Sevenoaks District Council.

Rides are taking place as follows:

Sunday 11th September - Knole Park - 10.30am

Sunday 25th September - Knole Park - 10.30am

All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult and cyclists must wear a helmet, arrive 15 minutes early and bring their own bike. Places must be booked in advance as numbers are limited. To reserve places ring 01732 227000 or email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk. Visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/cycling for more information.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



On **Thursday 1st September** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a talk by Peter and Pauline Heathcote on *'Panamanian Puddles'*, A compilation of two visits to this fascinating Central American country featuring a spectacular mixture of birds, butterflies and other wildlife. 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 15th September** when Dr Sophie Ooserwijk will talk about *'Tulips from Amsterdam: Dutch flower painting in the Seventeenth Century'*. 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. Commencing on **Wednesday 7th September** between 9.30am - 11.30am term time only.



Otford Village Memorial Hall Refurbishment Update

Good News, thanks to the generosity of some local organisations and individuals by the end of May 2016 we had raised sufficient funds along with our reserves to be able to approach Cory Environmental (the management company of the Ball and Ball landfill site) for a grant to enable us to start Phase 2 of our refurbishment project. Excellent News, the Cory Ipstock Trust have generously awarded us a grant of £13025 which means that by using some of our reserves we can now commence with the planning and implementation of Phase 2. This is a complex project which involves replacing the Club Room kitchen completely including installing a new ceiling with integrated low energy lighting and catering quality flooring. Additionally, we will be completely renovating the Hope Room which is our small meeting room. This renovation includes, a new ceiling with low energy lighting, new commercial quality non-slip vinyl flooring, new storage units, lining the bare walls with plasterboard, and installing sound insulation materials between the Main Hall and the Hope Room. We also intend to install an amplified sound / hearing loop system in the Club Room. To comply with the terms of the Grant we need to complete this work by 31/03/17. We plan to carry out this work during January and part of February. We have selected these dates to minimise disruption to our customers and will be contacting those effected with details of how they will be effected.

The Future of Our Hall. For those of you who are not familiar with the Hall it is a combination of the Tardis and the Forth Bridge. It is much larger and complex than it looks and needs ongoing maintenance and improvement to prevent it falling into disrepair. So, in addition to Phase 2 we will be replacing the rotting soffits at a cost of around £3500. Once Phase 2 is complete we will then start the process of fund raising for Phase 3 which is the renovation of the Main Hall. This will be a very costly renovation as it will include:

- 1) Replacing the parquet flooring which is now over 60 years old and its base waterproof membrane has deteriorated letting damp through.
- 2) Lining the walls with plasterboard and redecorating.

- 3) Improving the roof insulation and replacing the lighting with a low energy solution.
- 4) Updating the sound system and stage lighting.
- 5) Updating the stage and stage surround.
- 6) Decorating the Stage changing room.
- 7) Stripping out the redundant shower room and converting it to usable space.
- 8) Install additional power sockets.
- 9) Replace radiators with modern energy efficient units.
- 10) Other general decoration and renovations as required.

We are already researching funding opportunities but all of these rely on us having raised around 40% of the project costs ourselves. Therefore, if you haven't yet donated and are able and willing to do so, please send your cheque to: The Treasurer, OVMH, 69, Knighton Road, TN14 5LE or by Bacs to OVMH, Sort Code 09 01 53 Account Number 84811701. Please email ovmh.treasurer@otford.net or write to The Treasurer with your name and address and amount donated as we are now able to claim Gift Aid on personal donations.

Volunteer Fundraiser

Currently our fundraising is uncoordinated and we are very much in need of a dedicated fundraiser. If you can spare a few hours a week to help us and have some experience in fundraising please email the treasurer at: ovmh.treasurer@otford.net for a brief discussion.

Flytipping

Despite challenging financial times Sevenoaks District Council have recently appointed an Environmental Enforcement officer to investigate fly-tipping offences across the District. Many householders are not aware they have a duty of care to check that the contractor they employ to dispose of their rubbish is licensed to carry such waste and that it will be taken to a licenced disposal facility. Since May 2016, enforcement officers may issue a fixed penalty notice fine in the sum of £400 as an alternative to court prosecution to those proven to have fly-tipped waste.

If you see fly-tipping the following details are invaluable but you should never put yourself at risk in gathering this information.

- The name and address of the person tipping the waste if known
- A full description of the incident including the precise location and any vehicle registration numbers, identifying names, markings or phone numbers

- A full description of the waste and whether you actually witnessed it being deposited
- The time and date of the fly-tipping

The Environmental Enforcement officer will be working closely with Town and Parish representatives, neighbouring Council enforcement officers, Kent County Council and Environment Agency colleagues to gather evidence and share intelligence. If you wish to report fly-tipping on the Highway for clearance please call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000. If you have witnessed or have information relating to a fly-tipping offence please either contact your Parish Clerk or call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

Sevenoaks Literary Festival



This is now the 14th year of the Festival which takes place in various venues in Sevenoaks from **Friday 23rd September to Friday 7th October**. It will be celebrating Shakespeare's 400th birthday at the opening event with a reading of the sonnets by Peter Hamilton Dyer, accompanied by the **Milton Consort**, and later with a talk on *Shakespeare in Swahiland*

given by **Edward Wilson-Lee**. Three wonderful biographers will be **Michael Smith** on Ernest Shackleton in this centenary year of his famous Endurance expedition to Antarctica, **Anne Sebba** on the tumultuous lives of Les Parisiennes during and after the German occupation, and **Juliet Nicolson** telling the troubling tale of her family in *A House Full of Daughters*. Novelist **S.D. Sykes** will describe her medieval whodunit, *The Butcher Bird*, and **Janet Todd** will thrill us with her dark debut novel *A Man of Genius*.

The speaker at this year's delicious Literary Tea will be **Sarah Gristwood**, whose book *The Story of Beatrix Potter* will be published in June, and at the Literary Lunch crime writer Sophie Hannah will be talking about her second Poirot novel *Closed Casket*. Our poetry evening will welcome the intriguing **Lemn Sissay**. The 2016 free schools event will feature illustrator **William Grill**, who will be signing books after school at Sevenoaks Bookshop. Finally we will be showing the film *A Room with a View* with a talk by the owner of the real Windy Corner, **John Pym**. View the full programme on the website at www.sevlitfest.com. Tickets are available from Sevenoaks Bookshop on 01732 452055

Heritage Centre Artist for Sept - Oct

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.

Hospice in The Weald



The Sevenoaks Link of the Hospice in The Weald are holding a Quiz Night on **Saturday 24th September** in Seal Village Hall at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.10pm).

Teams of 4 - £6 per person. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Tea and Coffee provided. To book a table please contact Jenny on 01732 460228 or Janet on 01732 761104.

10K Run



Then on **Sunday 25th September** at 10am Hospice in The Weald are holding their challenging 10K road race starting from the Lower Cricket Ground, Tunbridge Wells. This year it is bigger and better with more runners and there will be prizes for the winners and runner ups. £30 Adult,

£15 under 16 and over 12 yrs, Club runner £23 and on the day £35. To sign up please go to their website www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk.

It costs over £7million to run the Hospice every year so taking part will be making a difference to patients, families and carers.

Hospices Of Hope Events



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

Something Silver Fun Run Knole Park Sevenoaks

Sunday 18th September at 2.30pm

To celebrate 25 years of providing hospice care in south East Europe we are holding a fun run in Knole Park.

Run, skip or walk 2K or 5K to raise money for children and adults suffering from terminal or life-limiting illnesses.

Time: Registration -1:30pm | Warm up - 2:15pm | Race - 2:30pm

Entry fee:

Adult - £12.50 (£15 on the day) includes bib, medal & t-shirt

Children under 14 - £8 (£10 on the day) includes bib & medal

Family of 4 (2 adults, 2 children) £35 - as above

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

Swim Serpentine

Saturday 24th September

Hyde Park, London

We are delighted to announce that we have 2 places available for Swim

Serpentine, a new open water swimming festival to be staged in the heart of London. All we ask is for a minimum sponsorship of £250 + a £25 registration fee. Swim Serpentine will be held in the Serpentine, Hyde Park, which was the venue for London 2012's open water swimming competition. If you want to be involved in this fantastically unique event then please contact amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk.

The Shoreham Heavy Horse and Rural Crafts Show



The popular Heavy Horse show in Shoreham opens at 10am on **Sunday 4th September**. The event is fun for all the family. It combines demonstrations by heavy horses, the engines of England before steam power, with activities for children, a craft fair, a whole range of stalls with local products and a range of fast food booths. There are also displays of veteran cars, motorcycles, tractors and static engines.

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/16/01699

The Den, Shoreham Road

First floor side extension with part two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, alteration to front elevation and detached garage.

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 to the roof and make alterations to the fenestration, including the removal of dormer and inclusion of high level roof lights.

SE/16/01749 Land to the South of Fairacre Wood, Shoreham Road
Proposed detached dwelling on land adjacent to Fairacre Wood and erection of a detached garage.

SE/16/01787 Fairacre Wood, Shoreham Road
Demolition of the existing double garage and construction of a linked double garage with accommodation above. Rebuilding of first floor walls. Various extensions and alterations to existing dwelling comprising replacement roof to provide habitable accommodation, alterations to fenestration and relocation of vehicle access.

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.

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

SE/16/01734 Holmewood, 8, Bubblestone Road
Demolition of existing single storey rear extension. Erection of a two storey side and rear extension and a single storey side extension. Construction of loft storage space and three velux windows to rear. Proposed new crossover.

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

SE/16/01978 Leighs, Shoreham Road
Proposed roof alterations with new rear gable. Proposed front porch.

SE/16/02003 Russell House School, Station Road
Erection of a new single storey dining hall with kitchen, music rooms and changing facilities on the site of an existing tennis court and a new/extended drop off area next to the proposed dining hall court. Construction of a new multi-use games area to the rear of the site.

SE/16/02146 The Oast House, Broughton Manor, High Street
Demolition of existing barn.

SE/16/02264 **Devon House, 49, High Street**
Minor material amendment to SE/15/03309 (Removal of front right hand dormer, reduce height of left hand front dormer. Reduce the height and width of rear dormer) to alter the rear dormer dimensions.

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

b. Results Received

SE/16/01141 **Land rear of 7 Hale Lane**
Demolition of existing shed. Erection of a dwelling *Refused*

SE/16/01157 **2, Flowerfield**
Erection of a single storey side and rear extension. *Allowed*

SE/16/01425 **3 Rye Lane**
Erection of a single storey rear extension, replacement of existing flat roof over existing rear family room *Allowed*

SE/16/01452(3) **The Castle House, Sevenoaks Road**
Erection of a single storey rear extension *Allowed*

SE/16/01464 **1B Leonard Avenue**
Erection of a two storey and single storey rear extensions and associated alterations *Allowed*

SE/16/00620 **96 Evelyn Road**
Loft conversion to include two dormers to the rear, one dormer and roof light to the front, rear roof extension with flat roof and roof light on top. *Allowed*

SE/16/01264 **69 Sidney Gardens**
Erection of a single storey rear/side extension. Alterations to roof and fenestration. Internal alterations. *Allowed*

SE/16/01586 **78 High Street**
Demolition of existing shed. Erection of a single storey side extension and a front porch *Allowed*

SE/16/01640 **Woodside, 9, Greenhill Road**
Demolition of conservatories and erection of single storey rear extension with two roof lights with new retaining wall to form patio area with steps. *Refused*

SE/16/01723 **21 High Street**
Removal and reconstruction of chimney to rear and repairs to central chimney and roof. *Allowed*

SE/16/01477 **59 Willow Park**
Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a part single/part two storey side and rear extension. Erection of a front extension with canopy. Block paving to drive.

Allowed

SE/16/01659 Llamedos, Shoreham Road

Minor material amendment to 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 to provide storage.

Allowed

SE/16/01699 The Den, Shoreham Road

First floor side extension with part two storey rear extension with part two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, alteration to front elevation and detached garage.

Allowed

SE/16/01756 The Farm, Twitton Lane

Demolition of existing outbuildings and the detached house and the construction of a new detached house and the construction of a new detached house. *Allowed*

c. Appeals

SE/15/03963 107, Evelyn Road

Additional dormer windows to side and rear of property

Allowed

SE/16/00066 Kent House, The Green

Demolition of existing garage and shed. Erection of a single storey rear and side extension together with alteration to entrance gateway and swimming pool in garden

Awaits

d. Trees

SE/16/02147 The Oast House, Broughton Manor, High Street

Fell four trees in the Conservation Area

SE/15/02250 Quies, High Street

Clear dead wood from lower crown of Ash and inspect Ash dieback. Reduce crowns of 2 Quince and 2 Apple trees by a max of 1.5m diameter.

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.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the October Newsletter will **Friday 16th September**