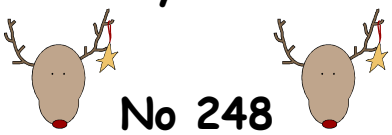
Otford Parish Council
December/ January Newsletter 2015/16



No 248

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 **14th December** and **11th January** 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

Obituary - Carol Griffiths - Unfortunately at the beginning of the month Otford said a sad farewell to another doyen and supporter of everything that was Otford. Carol passed away after a relatively short illness and will be sadly missed by the Historical Society, the Otford Society and the Heritage Centre as well as all her friends and colleagues in the many walks of life that touched on anything vaguely historical. In appreciation of her service to the village and beyond, representatives of the many organisations attended the service and ensured that she was given a suitable farewell at St Bartholomew's which was filled to capacity, despite the service being held at midday on a Monday. Our sympathy goes to the family who were remarkably stoic in their various presentations at the service.

Thank you to all those who brought poppies the Poppy Appeal in Otford raised £1652.05p.

NHS goes accessible - The NHS call centre now has a braille embosser and facilities to receive and make calls via sign language. The main website NHS Choices is also having an accessibility overhaul. By 2016, all care providers, including pharmacies and dentists, should offer information in alternative formats. Support with face-to-face

communication, where appropriate, should also be provided. All this amounts to a major programme of work. NHS England are hopeful it will be a success across health and social care and an important signal for other sectors of society to follow suit.

Otford Christmas Shopping Festival

On **Sunday 29th November** the only place to be and be seen between 11am and 4pm is your own village of Otford when our lovely shops here in the village will be open for business. There will be street entertainment and Father Christmas will also be visiting and there will be many other exciting things to enjoy including bell ringing and free mince pies distributed by the Otford Methodist Church. Please come and bring your friends and family and enjoy this fun day and support YOUR shops and pubs who help to keep this such a lovely, lively, thriving village.

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.

One Stop – Carrier Bag Charge

one stop
your | local | store

One Stop shop are asking if you would like them to support a local community group with the money raised from the carrier bag charge. Contact the store manager Keith Spittal with the name of the group and what project the money will go towards.

Guide Christmas Post Box

The Guide Christmas Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Thursday 26th November and Friday 18th December** inclusive during opening hours. A second Box will also be available in the Parish Council Office on Monday to Friday between the same dates. All cards will be delivered by Brownies and Guides before Christmas in Otford Village. Stamps will be **25p** per card and all money will go to the girls chosen charities Ellenor Children's Hospice and Sevenoaks Counselling Service. This will be the 33rd year that Otford Guides have been delivering Christmas cards in the village and we would like our Christmas Post Service for the village to continue and be really successful, so please give generously and support us by posting early.

Library opening hours – Monday 9am – 1pm, Tuesday 9am – 5pm, Wednesday Closed, Thursday 9am – 1pm, Friday 1pm- 5pm, Saturday – 10am -2pm
Parish Council opening hours- Monday to Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm

Tree of Light

The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 11th December** at 7.00pm on the Village Green. Following the service there will be refreshments offered in the St Bartholomew's Church Centre. Labels for you to write your message on are available from the Parish Council Office. If you cannot get into the office during opening hours (8.30am – 12.30pm) then please phone up and we will write your card for you. Cheques for your donation need to be made out to Hospice in The Weald. The Tree of Light will remain lit up until after the New Year.

St Bartholomew's Church Christmas Services

Sunday 29th November
6.30pm – Candlelit Advent Carol Service
Sunday 6th December
4.00pm - Christingle
Sunday 20th December
10am - YPF Christmas presentation and Sunday Club Nativity Play
Sunday 20th December
6.30pm – Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight
Christmas Eve
4.00pm – Crib Service /11.30pm – Midnight Christmas Communion (starting with carols at 11.10pm)
Christmas Day
9.00am – Christmas Day Communion / 10.30am – Church Family Christmas Worship

Otford Methodist Church Services

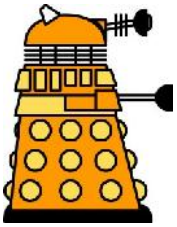
Sunday 6th December
10.30am Service & 6.30pm café style meeting with coffee and cake
Sunday 13th December
10.30am & 6.30pm- service
Sunday 20th December
9am – Service, 10.30am Family service with children's nativity & 6.30pm Carol service
Christmas Eve
5.00pm – Special Christingle children's service

Christmas Day
10.00am - Christmas Day Service for all the Family.
Sunday 27th December
10.30am service
New Years Eve
11.30pm – Watchnight Service –social gathering and refreshments from 9pm.

St Bartholomew's Church Choir Concert

St Bartholomew's Choir's Annual Christmas concert, will take place in the church on **Sunday 13th December** at 7.30 pm. There will be a mixture of carols old and new, from England and many other countries, with plenty of carols for everyone to join in. Refreshments, in the form of wine or fruit juice and mince pies, will be available in the interval as always. The admission price is £5 (children free). Please come and support them – and bring a friend!

TV/Film related Toy & Collectables Sale

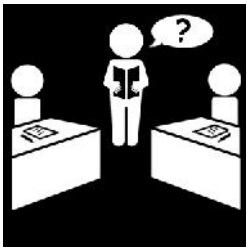


On **Saturday 5th December** from 10.30am to 3pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a Toy and Collectables Sale. There will be various goodies many at discounted prices on offer including items from Star Wars, Doctor Who, Thunderbirds, Harry Potter, James Bond etc ranging from action figures, games, books, giftware, comics and beyond all brand new.

Creative Christmas Gift Wrapping Workshop

A first workshop on 1st December has quickly sold out so there is another date due to high demand. This is between 9.30-11am on **Saturday 5th December** at Otford Village Memorial Hall £17 price includes: over £10 worth of luxury wrapping materials from www.thepaperdashery.com, plus a 1.5 hour class (with additional materials) to learn how to gift wrap without using tape, make tassels, Bunting and a wooden star embellishment. For more details or to book email gude@thepaperdashery.com

Gardeners' Society



The final meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday 1st December** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall will be the Annual Quiz and Fun night. Teams of maximum of 6. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

Otford Library Craft Sessions

There will be **FREE** craft sessions at Otford Library on **12th December and 23rd January** from 10am to 12 noon. Children must be accompanied by an adult, just go along and join in the fun.

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).

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meetings will take place on **Wednesday 9th December** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when the AGM will be held with guest speaker. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Then on **Wednesday 20th January** Ed Thompson will talk about 'Knockholt's Secret War' Adult subscriptions are £8 per year, joint/family £14 and visitors are welcome at each lecture for £3.

Christmas Wreath / Table & Mantle Arrangement Making Workshop

Denise Thompson our village's own designer florist is offering the chance to come and make a Christmas Wreath on **Monday 7th December** at 7pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The cost will be £35. Then on **Friday 11th December** she will be holding a Table and Mantle arrangement workshop. Cost again is £35 but arrangements may be more dependent on size required. Everything will be provided at each workshop (except please bring your own scissors/secateurs) and light refreshments will add to the fun. Places are limited so please book on 01959 525009..

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Otford Evening WI

Otford Evening WI will meet on **Thursday 10th December** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Bob Harding-Jones will talk about *'British Comedy Greats'* with audio clips and a fun catchphrase competition. If you would like to join the President would be pleased to hear from you and can be contacted on 01959 524831. The first meeting of 2016 will be on **14th January** when Barbara Darby will be showing an eclectic selection of her famous videos

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10th December** between 9.30 and 11.30am when they will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary and Christmas in the company of local magician Robert Pound. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Barbara Singleton Green on 01959 525515 for more details The January meeting will be held on **Thursday 21st January** with a quiz and sales table.

Twinning Association

The Otford – Neufchatel – Hardelot AGM will be held on **Monday 18th January** 2016 at 7.45pm in The Woodman PH. Do go along. For further information concerning twinning contact Jane Lawrey c/o Otford Parish Council.

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 on **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.'

Kemsing Singers' Christmas Concert – Mistletoe & Wine

The Kemsing Singers will get this Christmas season off to a swinging start on Friday and Saturday **11th and 12th December** at St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing. Both performances start at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Frankie on 01959 523752 for £8. In aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Christmas & New Year Trains

Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December	There is a normal weekday service but engineering work will start at 20:00, and from this time no trains will be available at Charing Cross, Cannon Street, London Bridge and Waterloo East. Our peak service will be between 13:00 and 15:59 and any passengers travelling after this time will see a reduced service. The last train departure from Charing Cross is 19:45 (to Hastings) and from Cannon Street 19:50 (to Orpington).
Christmas Day Friday 25 December	No Southeastern trains will run.

Boxing Day Saturday 26 December	High speed services will run between Ashford and St Pancras every 30 mins between 08:00 and 20:00. All trains will stop at both Ebbsfleet International & Stratford International. No other Southeastern services will run.
Sunday 27 December	Sunday service applies. No Southeastern trains at Charing Cross, Cannon Street, London Bridge and Waterloo East. A reduced service will go to and from London Victoria, London Blackfriars and New Cross. Engineering work will also take place on some lines between Hither Green and Orpington until 09:25, and between Folkestone East and Deal/Canterbury East. Replacement buses will operate between Hither Green and Orpington.
Monday 28 to Thursday 31 December	Saturday service applies. On Tuesday and Wednesday evening there is engineering work between Lewisham and Hayes from 23:50, and replacement buses will operate after this time. No Southeastern trains at Charing Cross, Cannon Street, London Bridge and Waterloo East. A reduced service will go to and from London Victoria, London Blackfriars and New Cross. On New Year's Eve, extra late night/early morning trains will operate from Victoria. On New Year's Eve, London Blackfriars south entrance will close at 19.00 and the north entrance will be exit-only from 23.30.Southeastern will not be serving this station from 23.00.
New Years Day Friday 1 January	Sunday service applies. No Southeastern trains at Charing Cross, Cannon Street, London Bridge and Waterloo East. A reduced service will go to and from London Victoria, London Blackfriars and New Cross.
Saturday 2 January	Saturday service applies. No Southeastern trains at Charing Cross, Cannon Street, London Bridge and Waterloo East. A reduced service will go to and from London Victoria, London Blackfriars and New Cross.
Sunday 3 January	Sunday service applies. No Southeastern trains at Charing Cross, Cannon Street, London Bridge and Waterloo East. A reduced service will go to or from London Victoria, London Blackfriars and New Cross. The engineering work continues until 04:00 on Monday 4 January.
Monday 4 January	Normal service.

Christmas /New Year Travel

Buses

Dec 25th – No service
Dec 26th – No service
Dec 27th – No service
Dec 28th Saturday service
Dec 29th – Saturday service
Dec 30th – Saturday service
Dec 31st – Saturday service
Jan 1st – No service
Jan 2nd – Saturday service

Timetables may change so please always check before travelling with Arriva Customer Services on 0844 800411.

Come and play Countdown

Come and play Countdown at Otford Methodist Church Hall on **Saturday 23rd January** from 10am to 4pm. Everyone will play several games (one against one) and the best two players will complete in a grand final at about 3pm, with a trophy and prizes. Cost £10 or £12 including sandwich lunch. All profits to Kent Association for the Blind. Tournament will be hosted by Phyllis and Heather Styles. For more information please call 01732 461623 or ap.styles@mybroadbandmail.com

Slimming World

Slimming World
because you're amazing

There is a new Slimming World Group starting in Otford Village Hall every Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm. The first meeting will be held on **30th December**.

Christmas tree recycling

After this year's festivities have ended, Sevenoaks District Council can collect and recycle your real Christmas tree for free throughout January. The Council will collect trees with a trunk of up to 90mm (3.5 inches) in diameter with its Garden Waste Collection Service until Friday 29th January. Simply leave your tree by the boundary of your property, where you'd usually put your refuse and recycling sacks, by 7am on the day the Council's Garden Waste Collection service visits your road. If you're not sure when the service is scheduled for your area then visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/collectiondays and search for your road name. The good news is that all the trees will be turned into environmentally-friendly compost. For this reason the Council cannot take trees that are decorated or in pots or

stands. If your tree is too big for this service, you can take it to one of Kent County Council's Household Waste Recycling sites. Call KCC on 03000 417373 for locations and opening times or visit www.kent.gov.uk.

Christmas Refuse Collections

Thurs 24th – December – normal collection
Tue 29th December – collection on 31st December
Wed 30thth December – collection 2nd January
Thurs 31st December – collection on 4th January
Tue 5th January – collection on 7th January
Wed 6th January – collection on 8th January
Tues 12th January – collection on 13th January
Weds 13th January – collection on 14th January
Thurs 14th January – collection on 15th January
All garden collections are as normal
Collections return to normal on Monday 18th January

Otford Parish Council /Otford Heritage Centre

The Parish Council office will be closed on Monday **21st December** and re-open after Christmas on **Tuesday 29th December** and then close again until after the New Year on **Monday 4th January 2016**. Full details will be posted on the office window.

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The lectures start promptly at 1.45 pm and finish by 3 pm. The next lecture is on **Thursday 17th December** when Christopher Bradley will talk about *'Three Wise Men: Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh'* . Then on **Thursday 21st January** Anton Gabszewicz will talk about *'Two London Porcelain Factories: Chelsea and Bow, a study in contrasts'.*
For further information see the website www.knopledfas.org.uk.

Heritage Centre Artist for December/January

The Artist for December and January is Jack Kelsey. Jack says "I always enjoyed sketching and would take a sketch pad and pencils with me whenever we went on holiday. When I retired five years ago the family enrolled me in the Otford Art Group. I started using acrylics to begin with then went on to use oils which is now my preference. The

painting on display is in oils. Everyone in the Group do their own thing so there is no competition between us and I have learnt a lot from my fellow artists".

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd December** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 7.45pm when John Buckingham will talk about *" The Wonders of Bird Migration'*. John spends a great deal of time at Sandwich Bay Observatory, and will explain how new technology is helping to identify bird migration routes of the world. Then on **7th January** Rolf Williams will talk about 'Crossing Boundaries'. Rolf, a former RSPB Communications officer, served in the Royal Navy and was ordered to an Iraq oil platform. Join him in a dramatic story of unfolding human and wildlife drama in the dangerous waters of the North Arabian Gulf. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.

Otford Village Memorial Hall – Refurbishment Progress Report

As many of you are aware the Village Hall is not owned by Otford Parish Council, but is a Registered Charity owned and managed by Trustees who represent many of the local organisations who use the Village Hall. Funding to operate and maintain the building and facilities of the Hall is generated by the income it receives from letting it out. However, for major work it is necessary to raise funds by applying for grants and appealing to local residents and societies. It is thanks to the generosity of everyone who has donated and given grants that we have now funding in place to complete Phase 1 of the project and work commenced on 28th September.

Progress to date is:

- Completed the replacement of our inefficient and unreliable Gas Boiler. This has been replaced by 2 highly efficient Gas Boilers each with their own pumps so that if one fails the other can continue to keep the temperate at an acceptable level.
- Completed the refurbishment of the Disabled Toilet and it now complies with all legal requirements, is finished to a high standard and is easier to clean.
- Completed the Men's Toilets in the Main Hall.
- Completed the Ladies Toilets in the Main Hall.
- The Club Room Toilets, Changing Room Toilets, The Showers themselves will be completed by 31/01/16.

We are now starting to apply for grants to enable us to replace The Club Room Kitchen, install a Hearing Loop in the Club Room, and renovate The Hope Room to make it easier to clean and more sound proof.

To enable us to do this we need to raise from all sources about (excluding Grants) another £12,000. 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 our name and address and amount donated as we are now able to claim Gift Aid on personal donations.

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/15/02760 **Land west of 7 Hale Lane**
Construction of a new detached 3 bedroom dwelling

SE/15/02832 **The Stables, Park Farm, High Street**
Erection of a conservatory to the side

SE/15/02869 **Orchard Hey, Rye Lane**
Demolition of existing barn. Construction of stable block

SE/15/03116 **36 Hillydeal Road**
Erection of a two storey rear extension, alterations to existing dormers and new dormer to side elevation. Insertion of window to side and rear elevation and existing door replaced with windows to both side elevations. New pitched roof to existing garage.

SE/15/03269 **9 The Old Walk**
Demolition of existing garage and erection of larger replacement garage, with fire door to house

SE/15/03446 **14 Rye Lane**
Erection of a single storey rear extension with rooflights

b. Results Received

SE/15/02666 **25 High Street**
Erection of a single storey part flat and part pitched roofed rear extension with roof lights

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 eastern extension.

SE/15/02888 **12 Rye Lane**
Erection of a single storey rear extension with two roof lights

SE/15/02083 **Bartram Farm House, Old Otford Road**

Installation of a telecommunication mast, associated equipment and access to replace existing mast located approx. 85m to the South West.

SE/15/02917 **Martins, Shoreham Road**

Proposed single storey side extension and alterations to fenestration to rear and side elevations.

c. Trees

SE/15/03360 **36 High Street**

Fell 1 Ash Tree

Christmas Shopping

Have a look in your village first. Support your local shops

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 February Newsletter will **Wednesday 20th January**

The Chairman, Parish Councillors, Clerk and Assistant Clerk wish you all a very happy, restful, and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.