

Otford Parish Council

February Newsletter 2016

No 249

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 **8th February and 14th March** 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

This report is a welcome back to all the residents of Otford following our Christmas break. I trust you all had a happy Christmas and happy New Year and are looking forward to whatever 2016 might bring.

The restricted parking in Warham Rd and the Parade car park has been agreed by SDC and is likely to be implemented towards the end of February.



The Sevenoaks Rd restrictions are being delayed due to a revised consultation aimed at preventing all day parking by commuters, but not inconveniencing residents, shoppers and school drop-offs. Currently we are considering no parking between 07.00 and 08.00 -

let us know what you think.



The willow tree on the Pond that was lopped a couple of years ago has deteriorated faster than envisaged and is soon to be removed completely before it falls down!! It will be missed, but the new one that was planted is growing well and will soon take its place.



The scout fence that was the subject of much concern has been approved by SDC planning with conditions - ie it must be painted green and hedging planted to ameliorate the harshness. The

fence along the footpath is also being moved back and it is understood that this will also be painted and shrubbery grown to hide it.



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 Village Memorial Hall Refurbishment Progress Report

Phase 1 Progress

We are very pleased to report that thanks to the generosity of residents, our local authorities and local organisations we have now completed Phase 1 of our refurbishment project.

- All toilet blocks have been completely renovated and are now modern and have low energy and low water usage facilities.
- False ceilings have been installed enabling us to fit low energy LED lighting with PIR controls which turn on the lights when anyone enters the facility and turn them off when they leave.
- Emergency lighting has been installed for safety in the event of power failure.
- The Shower Block at the rear of the Main Hall was in a very sorry state with missing tiles and broken shower fittings. The Shower Block is now in pristine condition.
- Old antiquated and unreliable Gas Boiler has been replaced with 2 new energy efficient boilers and pumps working in tandem so that if one boiler fails the other can continue to maintain a reasonable temperature.

Phase 2 Progress

This includes:

- Renewing the Club Room Kitchen.
- Installing a Hearing Loop in the Club Room.
- Renovating the Hope Room including, new flooring, new ceilings, improved storage units sound proofing and redecoration.

We have raised sufficient funding to commence planning and completing the Kitchen and have been fortunate in finding a volunteer to produce specifications for Phase 2 so that we can now start the arduous task of obtaining grants to complete the entire Phase. However, we do still need additional donations as it is not at all certain that we will be successful in our grant requests. Please rest assured in the unlikely event we receive more funding than is required for Phase 2, we will use the surplus to start Phase 3 which includes external and internal repairs and redecoration.

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.

St Bartholomew's Church

Antique & Collectables Valuation Day



On **Saturday 12th March** between 10am and 2.30pm St Bart's Church will be hosting an Antiques and Collectables Valuation Day in the Church Hall on the High Street with Catherine Southon (as seen on BBC Bargain Hunt) Auctioneers and Valuers. The event is to raise money for the church's reordering and redecoration appeal. A £5 donation for the 1st item and £2.50 for a maximum of 2 other items will be asked. Why not have a look in your attic and go along and find out if you have a hidden gem you never knew about. Refreshments will be served all day.

Fair Feast - Quiz



On Shrove Tuesday **9th February** Otford Methodist Church will again be hosting a Fair Feast Quiz (including pancakes, a quiz and hot drinks from 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Tickets are £6 (students £3) and they may be obtained from Andy Collings on (01959 524840). Tables seat eight people, but tickets from one upwards may be bought and everyone will be most welcome. Proceeds will help improve hygiene, sanitation and water supply in Uganda

Guide Christmas Post Box



Thank you to all who supported the 2015 Christmas Guide Post Box in Otford Library and the Parish Council office. This again was a success and raised in total £417.88p which has been sent to the girls chosen charities - Ellenor Children's Hospice and Sevenoaks Counselling Service. A big thank you to Angela in the Library and Sue in the Parish Council office for helping us, also to Gerry Froggatt and Craig who continue every year to print the stamps and posters for us.

Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 2nd February** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold a Buffet Supper evening. Then on **Tuesday 1st March** there will be an 'Evening with Steve Bradley (from BBC Radio Kent Gardening) - your gardening questions answered'. 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 Saturdays **27th February, 19th March and 16th April** from 10am to 12 noon. Children must be accompanied by an adult, Book to ensure a place on 03000 413131.

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).

Creative Valentine Origami Workshop



On Tuesday 9th February between 9.30am and 12noon in the Hope Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a Valentine Origami workshop. The cost is £25 which includes all materials and papers, plus a 2 ½ hour class to learn how to fold a secret love note into an origami heart, make a paper lotus flower, a pop out heart valentine card and fold a paper origami lucky in love crane. Tea, coffee and biscuits and great company are included. Please book early as places are limited to gude@thepaperdashery.com

Otford & District Historical Society



The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 17th February** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when John Shepherd will talk about '*The London Temple of Mithras - or there and back again*'. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Adult subscriptions are £8 per year, joint/family £14 and visitors are welcome at each lecture for £3.

Watercolour Painting Classes



Popular Artist and qualified teacher Sue Bradley is holding watercolour painting classes in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Wednesdays between 9.30am and 11.30am until 9th March. The classes are £14 for 2 hrs. Classes are aimed at beginners and improvers in watercolour technique. For booking and enquiries please contact suebradley5@sky.com or call 07715 663993.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 11th February** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Guy Hart Dyke will talk about '*The History of Lullingstone Castle*'. For more details or if you wish to join please contact the Secretary on 01959 525515.

Otford Evening WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 11th February** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall. This month's speaker is Chris Stewart and his subject is 'Workaid' - a charity that helps to train deprived people in Africa to earn a living and support their families. If you would like to come along please contact their President on 01959 524831 for more information.

Otford Players - Appeal for new members



Otford Players has been entertaining Otford (and beyond) since 1975. However, we now find ourselves struggling to find enough people to get involved in the two productions a year that we traditionally produce.

One of the biggest challenges is finding directors. This is a demanding and very satisfying role but our current directors need a well-deserved break. However, for anyone interested in having a go at directing there is plenty of help and support available.

Our current members are a mixture of young and not so young (!), experienced in drama and with no experience at all, introverts and extroverts, artistic and logical. Whatever your skill set we will welcome you with open arms.

The type of shows we have produced over the years come from every corner of the performing arts. Farce, Drama, Music Hall, Comedy, Variety, Song & Dance to name a few. There is always a need for actors, back stage crew, front of house crew, costume makers and tea makers!

What have you got to lose by giving us a try? We are going to organise a get-together somewhere in Otford, probably in February. All we need to know is how big an area to book (!), so have a look at our website and get a feeling for what we do and then contact us in any of the following ways if you would like to come and join us for a drink or two - on us! Looking forward to meeting you.

On Line: www.otfordplayers.otford.info /Email: otfordplayers@otford.net

Facebook: [otfordplayers](https://www.facebook.com/otfordplayers) / Twitter: [@otfordplayers](https://twitter.com/otfordplayers) / Phone: 01959 525404

Otford Twinning Association

The first social gathering of 2016 will be a Quiz evening on **Monday 15th February** at 7.30pm in the Woodman PH. Do join them. They look forward to seeing you.

Slimming World



There is a new Slimming World Group starting in Otford Village Hall every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm. Contact Emma on 07756630986 for details

St George's Day Luncheon



On **Saturday 23rd April** there will be a St George's Day Luncheon in Otford and a Celebration of HM the Queen's 90th Birthday. Please keep the date free. More details to follow.

Otford Society



Derek Buck, our treasurer, has advised us that he intends to retire from his position by the end of 2016 after 20 years sterling service to the Society, and we are looking to recruit. Derek says that the role is not onerous and you do not need to be an accountant. He would like start the handover process as soon as possible so that he can fully support the transition before he retires. If you are interested or have any questions about the role please email treasurer@otfordsociety.org.uk without any commitment. We have other vacancies on the committee so if you would like to get involved in protecting and improving our lovely village please email chairman@otfordsociety.org.uk for further information.

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 18th February** when Andy McConnell will talk about '*Scandinavian glass : from Orrefors to Ikea*'

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

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 4th February** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Ian Rumley Dawson will talk about the 'Birds of St Kilda'. The islands of the archipelago of St Kilda with their exceptional cliffs and sea stacks form the most important sea breeding station in north-west Europe.



Then on **Thursday 3rd March** there will be a talk by Brian Nobbs on '@East Anglian Highlights'. East Anglia is within easy reach for a day trip, long weekend or a longer holiday. As well as the better known sites, Brian will introduce some of the less well known wildlife hotspots in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details or e-mail jean.nobbs@tiscali.co.uk

Saturday Coffee Morning



Don't forget if you happen to be in the village on a Saturday morning between 10:30 and 12:00 you can get a cup of coffee in the village for just 50p in the Club Room at the Village Memorial Hall (and throw in a biscuit for free as well!) Quite a number of village residents turn up every week so why not come and meet friends and neighbours and help to support your local village hall at the same time. We hope to see you there soon.

Hospices of Hope Upcoming Events



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

Tunbridge Wells Quiz Night

Friday 5th February at 7pm Woods Restaurant, 62 The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5TN

£12.00 per person to include a light supper.

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

Faversham Quiz Night

Saturday 5th March at 7pm

Hospices of Hope Tearoom, 19a Preston Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8NZ

£12.00 per person to include a Fish 'n' Chip supper.

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

Silver Gala Dinner

Thursday 10th March at 7pm

Millennium Gloucester Hotel, London, SW7 4LH (closest underground station is Gloucester Road - it is then less than 2 minutes walk to the venue)

Join us for a special evening celebrating the achievements of Hospices of Hope's first 25 years! This event promises wonderful food, music and exceptional entertainment throughout the evening whilst looking back on the charity's journey so far.

£125 per person (10% discount for tables of 10)

Dress Code: Black Tie & Long Dresses

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

Oxford Quiz Night

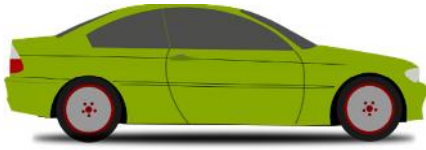
Saturday 19th March at 7pm

Hospices of Hope Tearooms, 11a High Street, Oxford

£12.00 per person to include a light supper.

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

Police Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Advice



Most vehicle crime is carried out by opportunistic thieves. Remembering a few quick and easy security measures could help prevent the expense and inconvenience of your vehicle being broken into or stolen. Making sure you only buy from legitimate suppliers, securing your vehicle properly and removing all valuables are just some of the things you can do to help.

General security

- Photograph your vehicle - noting any identifiable marks.
- Security-mark your vehicle. Etch the windows and other areas with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), making it more difficult to be sold on.
- Lock all doors and windows every time you leave your vehicle and if you've got an alarm or immobiliser, use it.
- Consider fitting anti-tamper screws to your number plate to reduce the risk of theft.
- Make sure your vehicle and its contents are insured and your policy is updated as soon as anything changes.

Consider using a lockable fuel cap and investing in a steering or gear lock.

- Drive a 4x4 or large vehicle? Security mark and secure your catalytic converter as these are easier to remove.

At home

- Newer vehicles are harder to steal without the keys so make sure you never leave them close to house windows or doors or in an open bag.
- If you have a garage, keep your vehicle locked inside. If you have two vehicles, use the other vehicle to block the garage door and consider installing a garage alarm and security lighting to deter thieves.

Make sure all tools and valuables are removed from your vehicle overnight.

- Left something indoors? Never leave your vehicle with the engine running.
- Encourage your neighbours to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity.

Out and about

- Take all valuables with you when you leave your vehicle. Even sat nav marks on a windscreen or a bag or jacket left visible can make breaking in seem attractive.
- Whether you're paying for fuel or doing the school run, never leave the keys in the ignition or leave windows or sun roof ajar.
- When parking look for car parks displaying the Park Mark sign, as these meet certain security criteria.
- Wherever you park, choose an area that's in view from passers-by and well-lit.
- Out shopping? Make sure your keys are secure - it only takes a few seconds for a pickpocket to strike.

- Put purchases in the boot rather than the back seat.



Motorbikes

- When out and about make sure you secure your motorbike, even if you only leave it for a few moments, and try to park in view of CCTV.
- Invest in a good lock. Motorbikes can be wheeled away so make sure your lock is heavy and cannot be cut easily. Consider buying a disc-lock, which stops the wheel from turning forwards or backwards.
- If you have an alarm make sure it's activated and advertise it using a sticker to deter thieves.
- Remove any valuable accessories that could be stolen without the need for tools.

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/15/03758 **Otford Scout Hut, Station Road**

Erection of approximately 30m palisade fence adjacent to

footpath

SE/15/03749 **55 High Street**

Former loft conversion

SE/15/03771 **The Red House, 55, Greenhill Road**

Erection of a single storey side and rear extension and double garage with new gates.

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. Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a detached double garage.

Amendment:

The elevations have been amended and the agent has confirmed the demolition of existing garage and erection of a detached double garage.

SE/15/03309 **Devon House, 49 High Street**

Removal of front right hand dormer, reduce height of left hand front dormer. Reduce the height and width of rear dormer.

SE/15/03745 **Beechcroft, St Michael's Drive**

Erection of a two storey rear extension and a front infill extension. Partial demolition and conversion of existing garage. Extension to existing front terrace and to pavement. New retaining wall along rear elevation.

SE/15/03862 Becket House, Vestry Road

Construction of a new entrance way to the existing building including associated landscaping and pedestrian access

SE/15/03905 75 Sidney Gardens

Demolition of existing side lean-to. Single storey rear extension with large metal sliding doors, roof light and green roof. Formation of a front covered porch and conversion of existing garage to living room, insertion of window to the north elevation side passageway to bedroom 2 and two new openings to the south elevation. Loft conversion incorporating rear and side dormers and two roof lights over the front elevation.

SE/15/03963 107 Evelyn Road

Additional dormer windows to side and rear

SE/15/03967 Land South of Pilgrims Way Cottage, Pilgrims Way West

Removal of condition 13 (bedroom windows) of SE/14/04060/FUL - Erection of a detached five bedroom dwelling with detached garage, including shared use of and improvements to the existing access and the provision of a new public footpath link onto Rye Lane.

SE/15/03934 Hillydeal Cottage, 14b Hillydeal Road

Minor material amendment to SE/14/04015/HOUSE to demolish flat roof side extension and remove pitched roof of remaining building. Rebuild side extension and raise walls of the whole building and build new pitched roof to create first floor bedroom accommodation. Changes to fenestration. Erection of detached garage to show the reduction in size of extension and pull it away from the boundary by 800mm and reduce its depth at the rear. Also, in order to enable the use of profiled ridge and valley tiles for improved appearance, the front and rear roof slopes have been increased slightly to match the side slopes so that the tile spacings are consistent. The ridge heights have not altered but there are small flat roof area which are not visible from the street.

SE//15/03563 3 Bubblestone Road

First floor extension over garage

SE/15/03916 66a High Street

Addition of dormer over proposed stairwell. Relocation of staircase

SE/15/03946 The Farm, Twitton Lane

Conversion of the existing cow shed building into habitable annex accommodation and the demolition of 2 buildings.

SE/15/04026 23 High Street

Internal alterations in order to relocate existing bathroom and create a new ensuite and opening up to allow more of the timber structure to be visible.

SE/15/04066 27 High Street

Proposed loft conversion

SE/16/00046 **66 High Street**
Paint removal from internal timber framing.

b. Results Received

SE/15/03150 **Oastside, Twitton Lane**
Erection of a single storey front extension. Conversion of garage into store and cloakroom. *Allowed*

SE/15/02760 **Land west of 7 Hale Lane**
Construction of a new detached three-bedroom dwelling *Refused*

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

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

SE/15/00628 **Fort Halstead, Crow Drive, Halstead**
Outline planning permission for the demolition of buildings and development of a mixed-use development comprising a business area (Use Classes B1 and B2 with ancillary energetic material testing) of up to 27,000sq m GEA, 450 residential units, a hotel of up to 80 beds, a village centre (Use Classes A1-A3, B1a, D1 and D2, use of the Fort area and bunkers as a historic interpretation centre (Use Class D1) with ancillary workshop space and works associated with the development including roads, landscaping, security fencing, formal and informal open space, pedestrian, cyclist and public transport infrastructure, utilities infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage system, cycle and car parking (with all matters reserved); and detailed approval for two access points at Otford lane/Crow Drive (primary) and Star Hill (secondary). *Allowed*

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

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

SE/15/03482 **13 The Butts**
Demolition of existing garage/utility room to facilitate the erection of a single storey side extension. Construction of new detached double garage. *Refused*

SE/15/03407 **Kent House, The Green**
Demolition of existing garage and shed. Single storey rear and side extension with alteration to entrance gateway and swimming pool in garden. *Refused*

SE/15/03512 **59 Willow Park**
Demolition of garage. Erection of part single/part two storey side and rear extension, new front extension with canopy and block paving to drive. *Allowed*

c. Trees

SE/16/00018 **23 High Street**
Lower the height to 6 Leylandii to 12 metres

d. Appeal

App/G2245/W/15313104

Land north of Pilgrims Oast, Station Road

Appeal against refusal of SE/15/00881

Appeal Dismissed

Newsletter Deliverers

We are currently looking for anyone willing to go on a 'reserve' list to be available when regular deliverers are not. We also need someone to deliver in Leonard Avenue if anyone can help please contact the parish council office. Many thanks.

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 March Newsletter will **Friday 19th February**



Please remember don't bother taking that trip to Bluewater, get that special present for your loved one from our lovely individual village shops and dine out in our restaurant or pubs. Please support your local businesses.

