

Otford Parish Council

March Newsletter 2017

No 260

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 **13th March** and **10th April** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Chairman's Report



The High Street children's playground will be closed for two/three weeks in early March for the removal of the large piece of wooden play equipment and the replacement with a new multi-play unit - see picture on the gate.

You will be glad to know that OPC have NOT increased their precept for the third year running thanks to the diligence of your councillors and clerks. However, this year will see a significant rise in most residents Council Tax bill as the County, District, Fire and Police will all be implementing rises of between 2% and 5%.



There will be public meetings held by the team leading the Options Appraisal on behalf of SDC, to discuss the options for the Palace tower. The next one will take place in the St Bartholomew's Church Centre on 28th Feb (10am to 2pm). The outcome will be reported as soon as it is known.



There have been ongoing discussions regarding footpaths and speed reduction on both the Shoreham Road and Pilgrims Way East, unfortunately the outcome is not promising for either due to lack of funding availability by Kent Highways.



There will be a "yellow line" appraisal for the whole of Otford carried out by SDC to determine if all the lines and or times are effective or necessary. I will keep you informed of the outcome if/when it happens.

The Great British Spring Clean Up



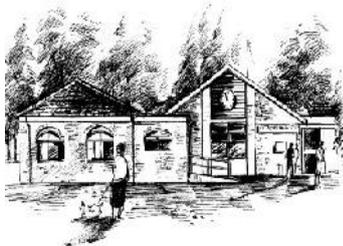
Calling all societies and organisations in Otford! Please come and take part in the 'Great British Spring Clean Up' during the weekend of **3rd and 5th March** and make our village beautiful. This is being run nationally by Keep Britain Tidy. The emphasis will be on clearing the village's footpaths which need attention, particularly those near the Parish Church and the station and the dual carriageway towards Sainsbury's. If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact Nick Fothergill on 01959 524120 or email him at hilfot@outlook.com.

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.

Your Village Memorial Hall - Update on refurbishment plan



By the time you receive this Newsletter our Club Room Kitchen will have been completely replaced with new units, flooring, ceilings lighting and appliances, the Hope Room will have been completely refurbished and the fascias and some gutters will have been replaced.

Renovation Projects 2017

- April - Install Sound System & Hearing Loop in The Club Room (Fully Funded by KCC & U3A).
- May - Replace redundant Sound System in Main Hall & Hearing Loop (Partially Funded).

Our thanks go to those individuals who have kindly donated and to The Otford Society for arranging the Community Christmas Party, the profits from this together with the proceeds from the Embroiderers Guild Exhibition enabled us to proceed with the fascia replacements. Our thanks go to everyone who supported these events.

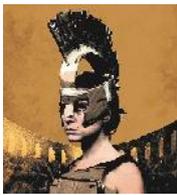
We are already researching funding opportunities for our next phase, which is the Main Hall, but these rely on us having raised a proportion of the project costs ourselves. Consequently, any contributions you can make will be very gratefully

received. Please also consider leaving a donation to The Otford Village Memorial Hall in your Will.

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.

Otford Village Memorial Hall Presents

GLORIATOR



What happens when a glamorous French actress and her hapless assistant stage their version of Hollywood blockbuster *Gladiator*? Wonderfully inventive, physical, and very silly.

Gloriator was created by French/English female comedy duo Spitz & Co with the help of Angus Barr (Public Transport) and Aitor Basauri (Spymonkey). It won the Critics Choice Award at Exeter Ignite, and was developed with support from Arts Council England and Bristol Old Vic Ferment.

"Belly-achingly funny" - Gloucester Citizen

"I hooted. I snorted. I exploded with such mirth that the tears streamed down my face." - Stroud News & Journal

"Catch them now before they're selling out the Albert Hall" - Mel Giedroyc, Woman's Weekly

On **Friday 21st April** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Tickets prices are £10 for adults and £5 for children 5 -16 years old, Under 5's free. Tickets available from 1st March and can be purchased from Yvonne's (Telston Lane), The Otford Emporium, Otford Parish Council Offices and Wegottickets.com. Entry is by ticket only and these are strictly limited. The performance lasts for just over an hour. All profits will go to the Otford Memorial Hall Refurbishment Fund.

Otford Heritage Centre

We are very fortunate, as a parish, to have a fascinating and significant heritage and to have a heritage centre with relevant artefacts displayed and stored and information held and shared. The centre is run entirely by volunteers and we are most grateful to all who have helped and help today,

Inevitably, further volunteers are required from time to time and this is such a moment. The range of tasks is considerable, including helping to gather information and prepare displays, receiving and caring for artefacts and serving as stewards. More particularly, we need people to run the centre's shop, help arrange the stewarding rota, serve as press officer or meetings secretary and help with running Coffee and Cake mornings. If you feel tempted to offer to help,

please ring me (01959 522325) or send me an email (douglascracknell@aol.com) and we'll be delighted to explore with you the possibilities.

Allotments Association



There has never been a better time to take up allotment gardening, with the current emphasis on healthy eating, fresh air & exercise. Otford Allotment Association has been in existence for over 60 years Plots vary in size, and they can usually accommodate any interest. Some small plots are **now currently available** so please

contact the association at allotments@otford.net if you are interested or contact the parish office on 01959 524808.

Otford Oast WI



The next meeting will be on **Thursday 23rd March** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Sue Shaw will talk about '*The Road to Chelsea*'. The first visit is free. For more details or if you wish to join please contact the Secretary Sharna

Peyto on 07860 463656.

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 tea or 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.

Otford -Neufchatel - Hardelot Twinning Association

The next Social Gathering of the Otford-Neuchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association will be on **Monday 6th March** at 7.30pm at the Woodman PH when we shall be showing the French film *Ameie* with English subtitles. We shall look forward to seeing you.

Otford Village Society AGM

The Society will hold its Annual General Meeting in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 18th April** at 8pm. We are very fortunate to have 3 officers from Sevenoaks District Council who will give a talk on Planning. Please come along.

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers - Girlguiding

The 2017 Sainsbury's Active Kids Scheme has been running since the end of January and Girlguiding Otford are saving the vouchers again this year to benefit the village's Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior Section units. Vouchers are available until 2nd May and we would like to ask for your help again in saving the vouchers for us. There is no limit to how many we can collect, so please spread the word to everyone. Vouchers can be dropped into our collecting box, located in the Parish Office, during normal opening hours. Our village Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units are currently full with long waiting lists. The demand for places at all Rainbow and Brownie units in the Sevenoaks area far exceeds places available and we would love to open new units to provide fun and adventurous opportunities for more girls. We can only do this if we have new adult leaders. If you are female, aged 18 or over and interested in finding out more about volunteering with us and training to become a Leader we would love to hear from you. Please register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer.aspx and one of the local leaders will be in touch with you. Volunteering as a leader is hugely rewarding but most of all great fun!

Otford & District Historical Society



The next meeting of 2017 will be on **Wednesday 15th March** at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm for tea and biscuits) when you can hear about '*The tragic tale of Tom Pryce (F1 driver buried in Otford Churchyard)*'. Adult subscription is £10. No charge for under 16's and visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting.

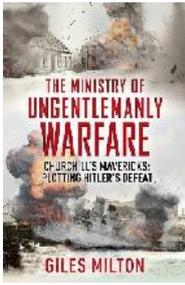
1940s Society:



The next meeting will be on **Friday 24th March** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when author Mike Brown will talk about '*Evacuees in the Second World War*' and he will explain how the Second World War affected the life of the Home Front civilian more than any other in the nation's history. The Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939 had shown the devastating effect of bombing on both the population and the cities themselves. The British Government could not afford to risk the lives of the very young and vulnerable who had to be evacuated. Mike Brown discusses what life was like for these young children, how they coped and whether it was a strategy that worked.

Refreshments are available. Admission is £3 and further details are available from Ian on 01732 452505 or on the 1940s Society website: <http://www.1940.co.uk/index.html>

Otford Library Talk



On **Tuesday 14th March** at 7pm in Otford Library in the High Street, Giles Milton will talk about his new book '*The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare*' in a talk entitled "*Six gentlemen, one goal - the destruction of Hitler's war machine*". In reviewing the book 'The Times' reviewer commented '(a) wonderful book . . . A fascinating and lively account . . . Milton writes with a pace and panache suitable to the subject'. Tickets are £4 but must be bought in advance and are obtainable from Otford, Sevenoaks and Kemsing libraries.

Otford Library - Craft Mornings



On **Saturday 25th March** and **Saturday 22nd April** between 10am -12.00 noon there will be craft mornings in Otford Library. Please book to ensure a place and call for further details on 03000 413131. This is a free activity but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Storytime / Bounce & Rhyme



There is also a new (free) story time session for pre-schoolers on Tuesdays between 2.30-3.00pm . This is every Tuesday, term time only. The Baby bounce and rhyme time for pre-schoolers is on every Monday 11.00-11.30am throughout the year.

Otford Library Contact Number



If you want to contact the Library you will need to call 03000 413131. This number goes through to a 'main contact centre' where you then request to be put through to Otford library. If you are new to the village or even been here some time and haven't joined your village library please go along and do so to support them. It has a lovely warm environment and friendly welcome. They have a large selection of not only books (large print available) but also DVD's and there are computers that can also be used.

Discover Roman Otford Project. (DROP)



On **Friday 17th March** at 8pm in the Club Room of Otford Memorial Hall. DROP. Red Nose Day event. "*Archeology the Musical*". Come along and support Red Nose Day with this entertaining but informative evening with something for all the family. Adults £5, children under 14 years £3. Proceeds for the event go to Comic Relief.

Oxford Evening WI



It's 'Jolly Hockey Sticks' with Ann Astin at our March meeting when she will talk about the fictional pleasures of Girls Boarding Schools.

The date is **Thursday 9th March**, at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall and visitors are welcome to join us. For more information please contact our President on 01959 524831. Tickets for our Birthday Meeting in April will be on sale at this meeting.

Oxford Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 7th March** when Everett Leeds will talk about '*Clematis through the Seasons*'. The admission price, which includes refreshments, has been held at £2 per person. Membership rates for the Society, remain at £5 for a single membership and £8 for a joint membership. Please contact Janet Finney on 523760, or email gardeners@otford.net for further details. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

Spring Show



Then on **Saturday 25th March** they will hold their Spring Show in Oxford Memorial Hall which will feature spring bulbs and early flowers as well as flower arrangements, cookery and photography classes. Admission is 50p and homemade teas are available until 4pm.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 25th February** in Oxford Village Memorial Hall when Janet Cronin will give a talk on 'Japanese Embroidery'. Then on **Saturday 25th March** in Oxford Methodist Church Hall (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE) when there will be a talk by Kay & Mick Denis on '*Stumpwork from the 16th-21st Century*'. 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.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 2nd March** at 7.45pm in Oxford Village Memorial Hall when Rolf Williams MSc will talk about '*Redshank, Rays and Roosevelt*'. Stretching from Gravesend to Whitstable, the Thames marshes were created by the Romans, farmed by

the Saxons, written about by Dickens, and echoed to the voice of Roosevelt. Today the marshes and associated Thames and Medway estuaries accommodate 300,000 wintering wildfowl and waders and breeding marsh harriers, redshanks, water voles and rare insects. The Swale has recently been designated a marine Conservation Zone. Illustrated with aerial photographs taken by Rolf from a Microlight aircraft we fly up river and take a peek at Essex also. 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 16th March** when Charles Harris will talk about 'Romancing the Rails: British Railway posters. On track with the world's best'. For further information see the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

Adult Pottery Classes in Shoreham



5 week introductory course to Pottery - mornings or evenings over 5 weeks, 15 hours in total - £120.
10 week pottery course - mornings or evenings over 10 weeks - £240
Clay Taster workshops - perfect for trying working with clay - from £40. Private classes and parties welcome and mould making and slip-casting workshops. Contact theclayroomuk@gmail.com or 07938 102062 or have a look at the website at www.theclayroomuk.com

Heritage Centre artist March & April- Jean Boyd Barrett



Jean says 'I initially started painting flowers in watercolours after retiring early from teaching. I found an excellent teacher in Julie King at Tonbridge Adult Education classes. I have also used other media such as pastels, pen and acrylics and have learned to paint on silk but watercolour remains my favourite medium. Recently I have been experimenting with mixed media with varying success! My favourite subjects to paint are flowers, dogs and landscapes'.

Rubbish and Garden Bags

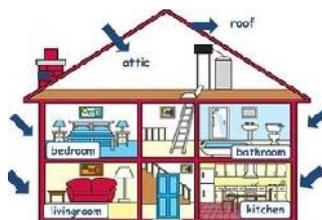
Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £13.50 for 26. It avoids all those trips to the tip. Rolls of black sacks at £1.50 and white sacks at 50p are also available. Please try and bring the right money.



Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach

FROM MARCH THE SURGERY WILL ONLY BE HELD ON THE 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH between 10am and 12 noon. 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

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/16/03867 The Birches, 28, The Butts

Erection of a front canopy. Erection of a two storey side and rear extension. Erection of a ground floor and first floor rear extension. Loft conversion to include a roof light to front and dormer window to rear. Improvements to the external appearance including fenestration.

SE/17/00102 21 Knighton Road

Erection of a single storey rear extension and associated internal alterations.

SE/16/03296 McDonalds, Old Otford Road

Reconfiguration of the car park and drive thru lane to accommodate the introduction of side by side ordering, including a new island for signage and amendments o kerb lines with associated works to the site. Alterations to elevations to include a new 'Folded Roof' concept, comprising of new aluminium cladding to the roof, and new drive thru booths. Installation of extensions, totalling 27sqm. The installation of 2no customer order displays. New fascia signs to be installed. Installation of container and associated works. Revised existing and proposed shopfront elevation.

SE/16/03297 Amended McDonalds, Old Otford Road

Installation of 3 new and retention of existing fascia signs; new suite to comprise 3no white 'MCDONALDS@' text signs and 4 no yellow 'GOLDEN ARCH' symbols

SE/16/03303 Amended McDonalds, Old Otford Road

Installation of 9no signs to accommodate the new drive thru layout

SE/17/00087 McDonalds, Old Otford Road

Installation of a new freestanding 5m Totem sign

SE/17/00030 **45 Sidney Gardens**
Minor material amendment to SE/16/02905 for the construction of a summer house in the rear garden. Amendment to reduce the size of the summer house

SE/17/00164 **6 Tudor Drive**
Erection of a first floor side extension and a single storey rear extension. A new ramped access to the side of the property. Removal of chimney. Alterations to fenestrations and internal alterations. Conversion of garage into habitable room.

SE/16/03885 **2, The Charne**
Demolition of a single storey side extension. Erection of a two storey side extension.

SE/17/00234 **Windy Ridge, Shoreham Road**
Erection of a single storey rear extensions. Demolition of single storey side extension. Erection of a single storey side extension. Erection of a single storey side infill extension.

SE/17/00257 **11, Coombe Road**
Erection of a single storey garage

SE/17/00279 **Broughton Manor, High Street**
Construction of a new garden and machinery store to be located on the site of the original, now derelict greenhouse.

b. Results Received

SE/16/03597 **71, Knighton Road**
Single storey side extension *Allowed*

SE/16/03599 **71, Knighton Road**
Loft conversion including raising the roof to install a dormer and roof lights *Refused*

SE/16/03649 **Heathdene, Shoreham Road**
Erection of a single storey rear extension *Allowed*

SE/16/03662 **65 Knighton Road**
Create a first floor level in the existing bungalow by raising the height of the roof and addition of three rooflights to side and a flat roof dormer to rear *Allowed*

SE/16/03657 **Land North of Pilgrims Oasts, Station Road**
Erection of a detached commercial storage building with 4 additional car parking spaces. *Refused*

SE/16/03489 **BT Phone Box, north of 65 Pilgrims Way West**
Removal of BT Public Payphone *No objection lodged*

SE/16/03594 **Akenfield, 35, Greenhill Road**
Proposed first floor extension to principal elevation. Part demolition and reconfiguration of existing single storey extension to rear. Proposed loft

conversion. Relocation of principal entrance to main dwelling. Proposed new gates and landscaping. Various alterations to the external fenestrations. *Allowed*

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the April Newsletter will be Friday 17th March

Online Scams - Information from Kent Trading Standards

More money was lost to online scams last year than ever before. The criminal's aim is to obtain financial information to enable them to empty bank accounts through money transfers or the purchase of goods and services.

The most common scams arrive by email. Here's what to look out for

- General greeting like 'dear customer'
 - Sense of urgency, ie 'act now or your account will be closed'
- Prominent website links can be forged to look similar to the proper address. One different letter means a different website
- Request for personal information such as user name, password or bank details
 - Poor spelling and grammar
 - Text is contained within an image
 - You weren't expecting an email from the company that appears to have sent it
- ### **What to do if you receive a scam email**
- Do not reply or contact the sender
 - Do not click on links or open attachments
 - If you have already clicked on a link and opened a website, do not give out any personal information
 - Delete it!

How to protect yourself

- Never give anyone access to your computer
- Microsoft or someone on their behalf will never call you
- If you need technical help, always call or email your internet service provider's support line or talk to a computer repair company locally
- Never share passwords or pin numbers
- If you provide personal information (login, sign up or register) check there's a padlock symbol in the browser window frame (next to the web address). Make sure the padlock is not only on the page itself.
- Update your browser to the latest version
- Use up-to-date security software
- Roll your mouse over links to reveal the actual sender

Some of the most common scams

Computer viruses

Fake websites

Online shopping

Phishing emails

Relationship scams

If you think you have been a victim

- Contact your bank to stop any payments being taken
- If you have lost money, it is possible your Credit Card Company or contents insurance may cover the loss
- Get your computer checked for any malware or Trojans that may have been installed
- Report it to the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06, or tell the Police.



**Don't forget the clocks go forward on
Sunday 26th March**



And don't forget Mother's Day also on 26th March



**Dine out on your High Street and shop local on the High Street
and Parade and get that special gift for you mum**