

# Otford Parish Council

## May Newsletter 2015

### No 242

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 **11<sup>th</sup> May** and **8<sup>th</sup> June** 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

The report this month will be a bit shorter than usual - nothing seems to have gone amiss in Otford - or nothing that has required my attention! There were no drains to unblock this month, although there are still a few wayward toilet users around - I can't help but wonder what their home life is like!



There was a successful "Litter Pick" day on 25 March along with McDonald's staff, along the Sevenoaks Road between McDonalds and the Village. Our thanks go to all of the volunteers that gave up their time to help with the task. Mind you, it would be far better if the cretins that throw their rubbish down on the ground 2 to 3 feet from the bins, put it in the bins provided in the first place!!

Unfortunately due to ill health our current litter picker has to give up his marvellous work for the parish, therefore OPC is looking for a "paid" part-time litter picker to collect rubbish from all the parish assets, i.e. the Village recreation ground, Hale Lane recreation ground, Telston Park, the Village Green, Palace Field and the Cemetery. If you are able to help, please contact the office on 524808.



OPC has forwarded comments to SDC regarding the proposed development at Fort Halstead. We have restricted our comments to the likely increased traffic flows through Otford - a mere detail brushed aside by the developers, in that they have assumed that nobody will travel through Otford to go to Sainsbury's or Otford station for alternative routes into London or Maidstone. We had a survey carried out on our behalf by KCC in June 2010 and believe it or not there were 66,000 vehicle movements in the High Street per week - that must have increased over the past five years, so any further development can only exacerbate the problem further.



The Heritage Centre has been revamped over the Christmas break; new displays are in situ making it well worth a visit. It is open most mornings 9.00am - 12.00 and weekends 2.30 - 4.30pm. The management are looking for more stewards to help spread the load, so if you can manage 1 or 2 weekends in the year please let the office know. They are also looking for a new treasurer, which they assure me is not an onerous task.

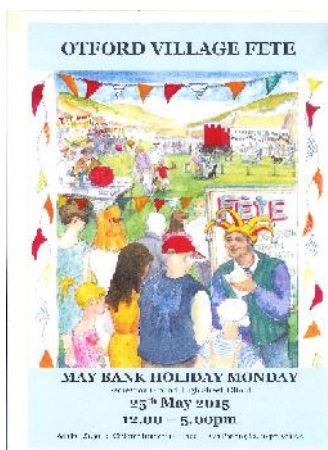
The nominations for both District and Parish Councils have now been promulgated on the Sevenoaks web-site. It appears there are still two vacancies for Parish Councillors, so if you would like to give up some of your spare time to serve on the Parish Council, please make yourself known at the office or phone 524808 to find out what is involved.

Hopefully, by the time you read this report, new Parish notice boards should have replaced the existing rather aged ones and there will be a new site on the footpath between Tudor Drive and the Station.



The Annual Police v Otford football match will take place on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** on Otford Recreation Ground kicking off at 6.30pm. Money raised will go towards the charity 'Winstons Wish' which helps children deal with bereavement. Please go along and support.

### Otford Village Fete - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May



Doors Open at 12noon - Entry fee: £1.50 children 10 and under free  
This year's fete will be bigger and better than ever. As well as our usual activities, the hugely popular and always over booked Dog Show run by Elands Veterinary Clinic and our tribute singers, Elvis and Frank, we will have some exciting new attractions including one entitled "A voyage around my bedroom". With the aid of a guide you will take an intriguing journey that will open up a whole world before your eyes. A unique and memorable experience!

We will have two large dinosaurs, vintage tractors, stalls offering exciting items to buy as well as many individual games being run by our village associations. For children we have a mega slide, some new bouncy castles and, of course, our ever-popular road train.

We have also managed to secure some new food outlets, Indian snacks provided by Raj Bari, Italian Pizza, a coffee kart selling real coffee, bagels and paninis, ice cream vans and of course the popular BBQ run by Otford Scouts. Afternoon tea and cakes, inside the Memorial Hall, will be supplied by the Gatehouse Nursery.

This year the fete committee has decided to donate a substantial amount from income generated at the fete to help with the renovation of the Memorial Hall. We hope that you will join us in raising as much money as possible so that Otford can have the premises it deserves and something residents can enjoy for many years to come.

Our programme will be available to view on our website: [otford.info/villagefete](http://otford.info/villagefete) later in the month.

Our thanks to a local resident and artist for the amazing painting we are using for our publicity this year.



## The Rising Sun - Twitton

Apologies to the Rising Sun PH at Twitton that was missed off the list of businesses in the April Newsletter.

## Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May** when Mick Lynn will talk about '*Poisons, Parasites, Potions and Pests*'. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail [gardeners@otford.net](mailto:gardeners@otford.net)

## Otford Art Group



Otford Art Group Sale & Show of their original paintings and cards, prints and local craft table will take place in the Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Admission free.

## St Bartholomew's Church Fair



St Bartholomew's Church Fair will be taking place this year on the **VILLAGE GREEN AND PALACE FIELD** on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June** from 2pm. Stalls will include: Books, Plants, Cakes, Crafts, White Elephant, raffle, unwanted gifts, bottles, toys, soft drinks, strawberries and cream and ices. Other attractions include children's games and a bouncy castle. There will be a children's art competition with the theme '*St George & the Dragon*'. There are two categories 7-11 and under 7 with good prizes. All village children are welcome to submit an entry. Contact Christeen Malan on 01959 522654. There will be guided talks about the church during the afternoon and you can visit the labyrinth on Palace Field and find your way to the middle. Also there is a single rose competition judged by silent auction so why not bring along an entry this year on the day.

## Otford & District Historical Society



The final meeting for 2014/2015 will take place on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** when Peter Lusty will be talking about '*The Livery Companies of the City of London*'. Subscriptions are £6 per year for adults and visitors are welcome at £2.

## 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. Paul wants to remind you that **ROGUE TRADERS** are operating in the vicinity. If you are approached by any person offering to carry out repairs to your property, turn them away, call 0845 3450210 and report it to Trading Standards.

## Library - Craft Activity

There will be a free craft activity session on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** from 10am to 12 noon. All ages welcome. To book a place please ring Angela on 01959 522488.

## Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold their 'AGM and do some Retail Therapy' There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Jo Hall on 01689 638996 for more details

## Otford Evening WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Contact Christine Masson on 01959 522637 for more details.

## Girlguiding Otford - Sainsbury's Active Kids Scheme



The Sainsbury's Active Kids Scheme finishes on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Please save those last few vouchers for us and drop into the collecting box in the Parish Council office before the end of the month. Thank you.

All of our units are currently full with waiting lists and as a result we are looking for more volunteers locally. If you would like to meet new people, try new things, develop your own leadership skills and have a positive impact on the lives of local girls and young women at the same time we would love to hear from you. Help us #growguiding in Otford by calling 0800 1 695901 or register your interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get\\_involved/volunteer.aspx](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer.aspx). Volunteering as a leader is hugely rewarding and most importantly great fun!

## Twinning Association



The Otford-Neufchâtel-Hardelot Twinning Association are holding a Quiz evening at the Woodman Pub on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** - only £3 per entrant, teams of 5/6. Please let Jane Lawrey have your name as soon as possible at [otfordpc@btinternet.com](mailto:otfordpc@btinternet.com) or telephone 01959 524808.

Do join us at our Fish and Chip Supper and Barn Dance on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June** - it was such fun 2 years ago that we are repeating it when our "Twins" come over for the weekend of the Church Fair. £10 per ticket. Please contact Jane Lawrey as above. Our car-sharing visit to Hardelot this year is on **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July**. We shall be visiting the Chateau de Valloires on the Saturday. The coach trip to Hardelot for the day is **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. Keep the dates free.

Membership of the Twinning Association is only £5 (£10 per family). Do join us. You will be most welcome.



### Knole Decorative and Fine Art Society

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meet s on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 meeting will be on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** when Mary Yule will talk about '*A view from the Plinth*' - a review of public sculpture today' For further information see the website [www.knoledfas.org.uk](http://www.knoledfas.org.uk).



### Football Club - Request for Mower

Otford United Football Club are looking for a petrol hand mower to help them maintain their pitches. If you have a one in working order that you no longer need or are thinking about changing yours please think of them. Contact David Hobson on 01732 763318 if you are able to help. Thank you

### Help Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in Your Local Community

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is inviting animal lovers in and around Sevenoaks to form a new volunteer fundraising group. Fundraising groups organise local activities like fete stalls, quiz nights and coffee mornings to benefit the dogs and cats at Battersea, including those in their nearby centre in Brands Hatch. This is a great way to meet people, have fun and contribute to a worthwhile cause. As part of Battersea's Fundraising Family, groups are provided with lots of materials and support from the Home. Battersea receives no government funding and needs to raise £15.4 million every year through donations. This wouldn't be possible without the support of local people, so if you are sociable, enthusiastic and have some spare time, please contact Battersea's Regional Community Fundraiser, Victoria Lawrence, on 07590 173456 or at [v.lawrence@battersea.org.uk](mailto:v.lawrence@battersea.org.uk) to find out more.

### Sevenoaks Local RSPB Group

The next meeting is on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will be holding their AGM, followed by an informal quiz identifying birds from photographs and finally the RSPB film '*Forsinard Flows*' featuring the birds of the peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland will be shown. In addition they will have a bring and buy sale. Local Group members are £2.50 and non-members are £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for further information.

### Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when there will be an afternoon talk on '*Tent makers of Cairo*' with Jean and John Fisher. 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.

## Table Top Sale

The Sevenoaks First Responders are holding a table top sale in Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June** starting at 10am. If you would like to book a table please e-mail [info@sevenoakscfrs.org](mailto:info@sevenoakscfrs.org).



## Kemsing Singers

The next concert will be on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm at St Edith's Hall, Kemsing. Get a ticket for their concert celebrating the 'International Year of Light' with Faure's Requiem, extracts from Haydn's Creation and some modern light favourites. Tickets are £8 from 01959

523752 or [www.kemsingsingers.com](http://www.kemsingsingers.com)

## Denise Thompson Workshop



Following on from her Easter workshop Denise Thompson Otford's own designer florist will be holding a Workshop in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** at 7pm. Cost £35. Everything will be provided (except scissors /secateurs - please bring your own). Please ring 01959 525009 to book.

## Great British Fish and Chip Supper - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA. In 2015 we want to make the matter matter and raise £40,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £20,000 from the suppers. The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email [fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk) or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)

## Heritage Centre Artist for May & June

### Caroline Bunton



I was born in Sevenoaks and lived in the town very close to my primary school where my favourite lesson was painting. At my secondary school Hatton which is now the Knole Academy, I had the most fantastic art teacher. She was very talented and helped me to get a grade A in my 'O' Level art. I then got my 'A' Level art at West Kent College. I was hoping to continue with a degree at Medway College of Art but needed to get a full time job. For quite a few years I had no time for drawing or painting, home and family came first. Later I was able to attend a WI Art workshop, which followed me joining the Otford Art Group, I now have a little studio at the bottom of my garden. I love most mediums especially coloured pencils, acrylics and graphite pencils. I particularly love to do portraits mainly in pencil.

### 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/15/00561      **38 Willow Park**

Demolition of existing garage and the erection of a single storey side and rear extension.

SE/15/00559      **Llamedos, Shoreham Road**

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.

SEW/14/04060      **Land South of Pilgrims Way Cottage, Pilgrims Way West**

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/15/00666      **6 Tudor Crescent**

Demolition of existing garage to incorporate a two storey rear and single storey side extension. Erection of a new porch.

SE/15/00694      **Castle House, Sevenoaks Road**

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

SE/15/00720      **57, Tudor Crescent**

Erection of a single storey rear extension. Raised rear patio.

SE/15/00628      **Fort Halstead, Crow Drive, Halstead (For Comment only)**

Outline planning permission for the demolition of buildings and development of a mixed use development comprising a business area, 450 residential units, a hotel of up to 80 beds, a village centre, use of the Fort area and bunkers as an historic interpretation centre 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 and detailed approval for two access points at Otford Lane/ Crow Drive and Star Hill.

## **b. Results Received**

SE/14/03904      **Stileways, Shoreham Road**

Erection of a single storey rear extension and raised paving. *Allowed*

SE/14/02853      **Oxford Methodist Church, High Street**

Variation of condition 6 (use), 7 (restricted activities) and 10 (Breeam rating) of SE/13/02045 to demolish existing church building g and erection of new church - with amendments to revise the usage (conditions 6 and 7) and omit condition 10. *Allowed*

SE/15/00147      **Burfield, Pilgrims Way East**

Minor material amendment to SE/14/00387 - erection of a two storey side extension with four velux windows to roof and a Juliet balcony to front elevation to show removal of Juliet balcony and entrance stairs to front elevation and a new window and front entrance beneath the front elevation. *Allowed*

SE/15/00049      **57 Tudor Crescent**

Conversion of garage to habitable room to provide disabled facilities. *Allowed*

SE/15/00225      **2 Tudor Drive**

Demolition of existing single storey extension and steps to south elevation. The erection of a new single storey extension, new canopy to side entrance, alterations to fenestration on all sides and internal alterations. *Allowed*

SE/15/00299&      **The Grange, High Street**

SE/15/00300

Partial demolition of existing dilapidated barn, and erection of replacement barn to be used as a residential annexe to The Grange. Removal of existing timber gates, to be replaced with new metal gate and railing, set back to create space to allow a car to pull into the drive safely. Erection of new wall and new timber clad three-bay garage barn.

*Withdrawn*

## **c. Appeals**

SE/14/03543      **2 New Barn Farm Cottage, Telston Lane**

First floor extension to front elevation on timber post support.

SE/14/00622      **Kursella, Sevenoaks Road**

Two storey side and rear extensions and conversion of loft. *Allowed*

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for items for the June Newsletter will be **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

## **Litter Collections**

May Day Week Commencing **4<sup>th</sup> May** - All collections will take place one day later

Spring Holiday Week commencing **25<sup>th</sup> May** - All collections will take place one day later

If you see litter outside your house, please pick it up don't just leave it for somebody else. Let's try and make our village streets litter free. Thank you

