

Otford Parish Council November Newsletter 2015 No 247

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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 **9th November** and **14th December** 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



It has been a relatively quiet month for the Parish Council so far. You might have seen the car being driven into the pond from the Sevenoaks direction. Thankfully only superficial damage occurred to the grass bank; no damage was done to the pond wall and there was no oil pollution. It

is understood that the driver was arrested shortly afterwards for drink-driving offences.



Don't forget the Remembrance Day Service on November 8th; the roads around the pond will be closed for 30mins between 10.45 and 11.15. Last year the church was full to the rafters and overflowing into the entrance foyer, so get there early to get a seat and avoid disappointment.



The Pay and Display in the car park has now been running for a year and apart from the occasional meter glitch and two cases of vandalism, it appears to have been a success so far with plenty of space for all the casual users. Unexpectedly, the parish council has received far more compliments than complaints. However, not unexpectedly as a result there have been more cars than usual parking on the Sevenoaks Road and surrounding areas, but there is limited space available in the

village. The council is currently working on a scheme to widen the entrance to the car park, but there are a few technical hurdles to overcome first.



We now await the results of the formal SDC parking consultation on Warham Rd and the surrounding areas in the centre of the village.



Sevenoaks District Council will be holding a Free Family Fun on Otford Recreation Ground on **Friday 30th October** between 10am and 2pm with games, biscuit making, sports and much more. No need to book just turn up. Children need to be accompanied by parent or carer.



Answering just three questions could help Kent County Council find a further £206m of saving over the next three years.

The authority is on track to deliver this year's target savings of £81m on top of savings of £269m that have had to be made over the last three years.

With reduced levels of government funding - an expected drop of £56m in 2015/16 - and additional spending demands on service - £36m due to increases in charges KCC pays - the public are being asked how the authority should go about making savings.

Should KCC be doing more to transform its services to reduce costs without having to resort to drastic cuts?

Can the council drive out more efficiency savings which protect front-line services?

Should KCC restrict access to certain services to only the most needy?

Would people accept an increase in council tax to protect front-line services?

These are just some of the questions to consider if KCC is to meet the financial challenge.

You can answer them in an online survey that runs until **Friday, 28 November**.

There is also a budget tool to tell KCC your priorities and decide how you would balance the books.

John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Finance, said: "The extent of the challenge is clear for all to see and the decisions we make in our budget will affect everyone in Kent.

"That's why we want as many residents as possible to take part in our budget consultation. This is the toughest budget we've ever faced."

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/budget to get involved.



As part of Sevenoaks District Council's commitment to delivering effective and efficient services, they are asking local people what they think about the Council's overall performance, the way in which they receive Council information and their budget and community plan priorities.

They have employed an independent research agency, Lake Market Research, who will conduct a telephone survey interviewing around 200 residents from across the District from Saturday 24 October for the next two weeks.

Some calls will take place during evenings and at weekends to ensure they hear the views of a representative, cross-section of our District population. Interviews should take between 10 to 15 minutes. The research is being conducted under the Code of Practice of the UK Market Research Society, which means all of the answers residents give will remain strictly confidential and anonymous. All the telephone numbers are randomly generated and, as we are not making sales calls, the Telephone Preference Service exemptions do not apply.

Those contacted can check that Lake Market Research is a bona fide market research agency by calling the UK Market Research Society on their Freephone number 0500 396 999.

Remembrance Day 2015



Please remember that traffic will be halted at the pond between 10.45am and 11.15am on Remembrance Day **Sunday 8th November**

So if you are making a journey please get through before but if you do get caught please just be patient and remember why you are waiting. WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE

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 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.

The Otford Village Society - Magic Night



Oxford Village Society - Magic Show

On the evening of **Saturday 28th November** from 7pm, we will be hosting in the Oxford Village Memorial Hall a fantastic display of stage and close-up magic by renowned local magician Robert Pound.

Robert has earned the highest grade a magician can get within The Magic Circle (Associate of The Inner Magic Circle with silver star), has performed for celebrities including Sir Paul McCartney and Chris Tarrant, and has also appeared on TV - for

example in the recent revival of TFI Friday - so you can be sure that his show will amaze and astound.

Robert's show for the Society will be completely family-friendly and, as well as the main event of a stage show (which will offer plenty of opportunities for volunteers!), he will also be roaming the Hall and surprising visitors with tricks and mystifying close-up routines.

Tickets are available now from the Parish Council Offices, Yvonne's, the Oxford Emporium, and www.oxfordsociety.org.uk/magic They cost £10 per adult or £5 per child (16 or under). Nibbles will be provided but please bring your own drinks. Don't miss the chance to have your mind blown by this truly astonishing show!

One Stop - Carrier Bag Charge



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 Oxford 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 over the weekend 19/20th December. Stamps will be **25p** per card and all money will go to the chosen charities. This will be the 33rd year that Oxford 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 Christmas Market

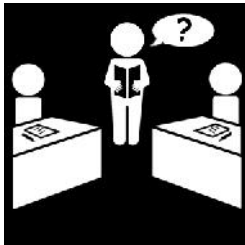


The Christmas market will take place in the Church Centre (adjacent to the Church) on **Saturday 21st November** from 10am to 12 noon.

Stalls will include: gift wrapping, cards, Christmas tree and table decorations, candles, bulbs (the growing kind), Christmas sweets and chocolates, and a herb and spice craft stall.

Tea, Coffee and biscuits, stollen and mince pies will also be on sale for you to enjoy while having a chat with friends.

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 **Saturday 14th November, 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 Players



The Otford Players next productions will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Friday 13th and Saturday 14th**

November at 7.30pm.

None the Wiser - Five nuns have made their home in rented accommodation in Otford with a view to interacting with the local community. Two more nuns arrive and plan to stay whether welcomed or not. The result is a comical turn of events, which would challenge most convents.

Nothing Left to Say - A light-hearted drama about friendship and relationships, both romantic and fraternal. *Nothing Left to Say* charts the paths of brothers Luke and James, and their respective partners Kim and Amy, as they make decisions that will change their future.

Tickets are £8 from 01959 525404 or 07825 270708 or otfordplayers@otford.net

Otford & District Historical Society



The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 18th November** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Steve Hookins will talk about '*Waterloo200 - the bits that Abba got wrong*'. Adult subscriptions are £8 per year, joint/family £14 and visitors are welcome at each lecture for £3.

Quiz Night

In aid of the Otford Village Memorial Hall Restoration Fund the Otford & District Historical Society will be holding a Quiz Night with Raffle on **Saturday 21st November** at 7.30pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. £5 per person. To reserve a table of 6-8 please call 01959 524147.

Book Fair



The next Otford Book Fair will take place on **Saturday 7th November** in Otford Village Memorial Hall between 9am and 2.30pm - Free admission. Refreshments are available.

Otford Art Group

The Otford Art Group are holding an Art Show and Sale of original paintings, cards and prints on **Saturday 14th November** between 11am and 4pm at Hope Church, Mill Lane, Seal (behind the Shell Garage). Admission and parking free

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..

Otford Evening WI



Trademark

Otford Evening WI will meet on **Thursday 12th November** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. They will hear about '*The Story of Trademarks, Labels & Logos*'. Looking at the sometimes surprising, scary and magical world of labels. If you would like to join the President would be pleased to hear from you and can be contacted on 01959 524831.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 19th November** between 9.30 and 11.30am This month they will be making Christmas crafts with Caroline Bunton (bring needle, scissors and glasses!). There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Barbara Singleton Green on 01959 525515 for more details

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.'



Who Let the Dads Out?

Calling all dads, grand-dads, uncles, in fact any male carer of children under the age of 10 from in or around Otford. Well on the dates shown below between 3.30pm and 5.30 pm at Otford Methodist Church Hall, in conjunction with St. Bart's, we will be hosting the first of our regular "*Who Let the Dads Out?* (Otford)" events.

There will be lots for the children to do; bouncy castle, toys, stories, crafts, computer zone etc. So gentlemen, why not give your partner a well-earned break and bring your bundles of joy along to have fun and make new friends.

Future dates all in Otford Methodist Church Hall:

- 14th November 3.30pm to 5.30pm, 12th December 3.30pm to 5.30pm, 9th January 2016 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The last meeting of 2015 will take place on **Saturday 28th November** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold their Christmas Party and have a talk by Anne Sillifant on '*Sketchbook for Stitches*'

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.

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. Their theme for this year is '*Ceramics & Glass through History*'. The next lecture is on **Thursday 19th November** when Maggie Campbell Pederson will talk about '*A dewdrop from Heaven - Pearls and Shells*'

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



Heritage Centre Artist for November/December

The Artist for November and December 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 5th November in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 7.45pm when David Boag will give '*A Colourful Introduction to Birds*'. Some of the world's birds are dramatic, brightly coloured or large which will encourage and enthuse us to enjoy the wonderful birds to be found on our travels. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.



100th year of Cub Scouts in 2016

Oxford Scouts are planning to celebrate the 100th year of Cub Scouts in 2016 with special events over and above their usual Scouting programme. In June 2016 they will be holding a thank you event at the Scout Hut. They would like to invite ex Cubs and Leaders from Oxford to take part and they are particularly keen to contact the 'oldest' Cub they can. Scouting started in Oxford in 1930.

They are also interested in any history about Cubs and Scouts in Oxford, plus photographs they could copy. Please contact Jonathan Booth on 01959 524954 or email boothhq@booth21202.fsworld.co.uk

Hospice of Hope Events

Christmas Party Warm Up - Friday 20th November at 7.30pm

Clockhouse Suite at Rowhill Grange Hotel, Kent

£35 per person to include a fabulous three course gourmet dinner followed by coffee & mince pies, arrival drink and plenty of crackers and party poppers.

There will also be a disco later in the evening to show off those dance moves!

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

Ladies Lunch with Festive Petit Fours Demonstration - Monday 30th November at 12 noon - Alexander House Hotel, East Grinstead

£29.00 per person to include an arrival drink, two course luncheon with a glass of wine, & coffee with mince pies.

Due to the popularity of Channel 4's 'Come Dine with Me', Alexander House Hotel's new Executive Head Chef Darrel Wilde will be demonstrating how to make some delightful petit fours to wow your guests over this festive period!

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

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/15/02888 **12 Rye Lane**

Erection of a single storey rear extension with two roof lights

SE/15/02083 **Bartram Farm House, Old Otford Road (Amendment)**
Installation of a telecommunications mast associated equipment and access to replace existing mast located approx. 85m to the South West. The red line on the site location plan has been amended

SE/08/675 **Sevenoaks Quarry, Bat & Ball Road**
Non-material amendments to conditions attached to planning permission SE/08/675 and to the details approve pursuant to that permission.

SE/15/02917 **Martins, Shoreham Road**
Proposed single storey side extension and alterations to fenestration to rear and side elevations

SE/15/03023 **Llamedos, Shoreham Road**
Minor material amendment to application SE/14/03848/FUL for 'Demolition of the existing detached property, subdivision of the plot and the construction of two new detached dwellings' to show proposed Air Source Heat Pump to plot 1 & 2 and conversion of garage roof space to provide storage

SE/15/03023 **Beechcroft, St Michael's Drive**
To extend the height of the chimney by 1.5m

SE/15/02594 **Burfield, Pilgrims Way East (Amendment)**
Enlargement of garage door, amend the roof to hips and the installation of an additional roof light to rear. Amend rear elevation to render. Installation of offside lights to entrance door to garage extension. **Amendment:** Removal of garage door to right flank elevation from application description and reduction of window on rear elevation.

SE/15/03092 **Mulberry Cottage, Row Dow**
To increase the height of 3no front dormers and construct a new rear dormer.

SE/15/03112 **105 Willow Park**
Erection of a two storey side extension.

b. Results Received

SE/15/00803 **Reedhatch, Telston Lane**
Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of extension with rooms in the roof to existing dwelling and incorporate new front porch and integral garage. *Allowed*

SE/15/01885 **Hatcham House, St Michael's Drive**
Installation of windows to the south and south-east elevation of the pre-preparatory school to facilitate use of internal void *Allowed*

SE/15/01863 **Railway crossing 180m south of Otford Station**
Installation of a new stepped footbridge, between Tudor Drive and Evelyn Road, south of Otford Station *Allowed*

SE/15/02380 **Quaife Engineering, Vestry Road**
Demolition of existing plant rooms. Extension of existing factory shop floor. *Allowed*

SE/15/02479 Kent Cottage, 15, Greenhill Road

Removal of condition 5 (code for sustainable homes) of SE/13/00687 (the erection of detached dwelling with rooms in roof with roof light to front, rear and side elevations, rear balcony, basement with light well, attached garage with room in roof, retaining walls to gardens, parking and landscaping). *Allowed*

SE/15/01748 Holmewood, 8 Bubblestone Road

Double storey extensions to the right flank and rear, single storey extension to the left hand side. The demolition of the existing single storey rear extension. New crossover.

SE/15/01983 11a Hillydeal Road

Erection of a two storey side extension *Allowed*

SE/15/02513 Otford Primary School

Temporary planning permission for the retention of the existing 2 classroom modular building *Allowed*

SE/15/01974 3 Flowerfield

Demolition of existing porch and garage. Erection of a single storey front extension and single storey rear extension. Erection of a part single storey, part two storey side extension. Internal alterations and extension to front driveway. *Allowed*

SE/15/02348 Unit 3, Block 9, Vestry Road

Installation of 5no air conditioning condenser units, housed in white coated steel cages for protection, extractor vent to east and west elevation *Allowed*

c. Trees

SE/15/03171 New Forge House, High Street

T1 - Beech - located in rear garden. Thin crown to remove approximately 30% (TPO)



Parish Councillors Contact Details

<u>Chairman</u>		
John Edwards-Winser	Oastbrook, Telston Lane	522503
<u>Councillors</u>		
Philip Clucas	24 Tudor Drive	philip.clucas@otford.net
Mrs. Mary Evans	14 Tudor Crescent	mary.a.evans@btinternet.com
Nick Fothergill	7 Darnets Field	524120
Mrs. Jackie Howe	33 Pilgrims Way West	525434
Mrs. H. Jane Lawrey	23 Tudor Crescent	522360
Howard Leicester	Albany, Shoreham Road	howard_leicester@btconnect.com
Irene Roy	Castle House, Sevenoaks Rd	ireneroyatcastle@gmail.com
Nick Rushby	Chantry Cottage The Green	525205
Jon Verrall	24 Pilgrims Way East	jon.verrall5@btinternet.com
Martin J. Whitehead	19 Coombe Road	524088

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 December/January Newsletter will **Friday 22nd November**