

Otford Parish Council

September Newsletter 2017

No 265

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 **11th September** and **9th October** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Chairman's Report



I make no apology for returning to the topic of the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan. The Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan is now being incorporated into the Town's Neighbourhood Plan which will

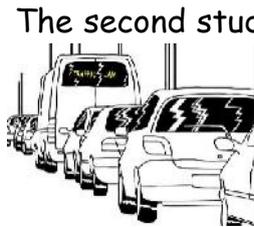
put to a referendum probably in late 2018. The referendum will be for Sevenoaks residents only: residents in the neighbouring parishes will not be able to vote despite the implications for infrastructure - traffic, education, services, healthcare - that will affect us all. Sevenoaks Town Council have stated that the northwards expansion of the Vestry Estate into the Green Belt that separates our village from Sevenoaks is no longer under consideration.

However, we have decided that it would be prudent to study whether the vision of moving the companies from the industrial areas around Bat & Ball onto the



Vestry Estate is realistic. At first sight, it would seem to be quite impractical but the planning must be evidence based and this study aims to collect that evidence by trying to determine the future requirements of these companies, and matching them to the future development of the Vestry Estate within its existing boundaries. The

study should be complete by the Autumn and the results will be published.



The second study will take rather longer to carry out. The Council has resolved to establish a working group led by Cllr Irene Roy to examine traffic issues in Otford. Over the years a number of ideas to slow down traffic and improve road safety have been examined, but these have often been on a piecemeal basis and have not gathered enough support to affect change. The working group will take a more integrated approach to all traffic issues to explore what might be done to make Otford a more pleasant place in which to live and work.

The aims of the project will be to:

- a. Gather evidence on the volume of traffic through the village;
- b. Predict volumes of traffic over the next 10-15 years, based on advice from qualified traffic planners (considering planned developments such as the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood plan);
- c. Consider options for improving road safety, including traffic calming, to determine the advantages and disadvantages of specific measures;
- d. Make recommendations for improvements based on advice from qualified traffic planners supported by cost-benefit analyses;
- e. Submit a report on the findings of the traffic infrastructure study to SDC and KCC planning departments for consideration in future developments, such as the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood plan;
- f. Produce an initial report by 1st March 2018.

The working group would like to achieve its aims within six months. In order to do this, it will need to draw on expertise beyond Otford Parish Council, such as Kent Highways and others experienced in traffic management, as well as our neighbouring parish councils. If you would like to offer your help and expertise, please contact Irene Roy through the Parish Office.

Another item in this Newsletter gives details of the Issues and Options consultation being run by Sevenoaks District Council. They are inviting your responses to their survey and I strongly recommend that you take the time to participate. This will affect our village and your comments will be more effective than your silence!



Speedwatch volunteers

The Parish Council are looking to restart our Speedwatch Team operations and are looking to create a list of willing volunteers and a co-ordinator to maintain the list and call out the volunteers for sessions. If you would be interested in this role or would just like to go on the list of volunteers please contact the office either by phone or e-mail. Your name, contact number/ e-mail is required and whether you are available mornings/afternoons or evenings.

Part time paid litter picker



OPC are still looking for a "paid" part-time litter picker to collect rubbish and empty bins from all the parish assets, i.e. the Village Recreation Ground, Hale Lane Recreation Ground, Telston Park, Chalk Pit, the Village Green, Palace Field and the Cemetery and footpaths. If you would like to help keep your village tidy, please contact the office on 524808.

Newsletter delivery

A huge thankyou to Doug and Rosemary Cracknell for their many years of service delivering newsletters in Rye Lane (to the bend), Ryecroft, Shinecroft and Broughton Road. Please contact the office if you are willing to take over this area. It only takes about 1 hour 10 times a year. Thank you.

Hedges



Hedges are still growing at the moment and hanging over the public footway. This can cause a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight. Please check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.



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.



Table Top Sale

The Otford Evening WI are holding a Table Top Sale in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 14th October** between 9.00am and 12.30pm. Tables cost £10 and can be booked by calling Chris on 01959 522485.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 21st September** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will have a talk by Rod Shelton our local historian. The first visit is free. For more details or please contact the Secretary Sharna Peyto on 07860 463656.

Prescription Letters

Recently letters have been delivered in the village concerning online prescriptions. This has nothing to do with Otford Surgery or Otford Pharmacy. Please continue to support and use your pharmacy.

Otford Evening WI



The next meeting of the Otford Evening WI will be held on **Thursday 14th September** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall when Jo Livingston will talk about *'Odd Corners of London - places you have never noticed'* Visitors are very welcome at the meetings and if further information is required please contact their President on 01959 524831.

The Otford Society

Planning is under way for this year's Otford Society Community Party, which will be held on **Saturday 25th November** in the Memorial Hall. There'll be family-friendly fun, plentiful food and drink, great entertainment, and a raffle with fantastic prizes. Ticket details will appear in the next newsletter - for now, save the date!

Otford Library News



- Baby bounce and rhyme time (BBRT) sessions run on Mondays 11.00-11.30am.
- The first story time will be on **Tuesday 12th September** between 2.30-3.00pm.
- Talk time continues at the library throughout the year on Mondays 11.30-12.30. We welcome anyone who would like to join in for a chat over a cup of tea, coffee and biscuits.



Oxford & District Historical Society

The first meeting of the 2017/18 Winter programme will be on **Wednesday 20th September** at 8pm, refreshments served from 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Cliff Ward will give a talk on Otford Palace. Adult subscription is £10. No charge for under 16's and visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting.

1940's Society

The next meeting of the 1940's Society will be held in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Friday 29th September**. Alan Williams will give a talk on *'From Cradle to Grave'* - creating the British Welfare State in the 1940's.

Much of what we think of as the modern welfare state, for example the Nation Health Service, Social Security and a commitment to full employment, has its recent origins in World War Two and was created in the late 1940s. In this talk Alan will explore the background to the creation of the welfare state and why the war acted as an agent of such significant policy change.

Oxford Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 5th September** at 8pm in Oxford Village Memorial Hall. Paul Harrison will be giving a practical demonstration entitled '*Bring on the Hot Winter Pots*'. Admission 50p members, £1 non-members. Admission includes refreshments.

The Autumn Flower & Craft Show



The Autumn Flower Show will take place on **Saturday 9th September** in Oxford Village Memorial Hall between 2.15 - 4.15pm. After a summer of hard work, the show will provide a marvellous display of late summer flowers and the harvest from the vegetable garden. There will also be floral arrangements, preserves and cookery, art, handicraft and photographic classes. Admission is 50p and homemade teas are available until 4pm

First Steps

First Steps has returned to Oxford Methodist Church Hall. This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers is always pleased to welcome new members. It is run by the Methodist and St Bartholomew's Church and includes the opportunity for a chat, refreshment and also a short bible story, with singing and craft activities for the children. Meeting at 9.30am to 11.30am on alternate Wednesdays during term time only commencing **6th and 20th September**. Contact Hazel Terry on 01959 523047 for more details.

RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group



On **Thursday 7th September** at 7.45pm in Oxford Village Memorial Hall there will be a talk by Brian Gallop on '*New England Fall*'. The shades of a New England fall (Autumn) are quite spectacular, as is the wildlife. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.

This photo by Helen...

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 21st September** when Toby Faber will talk about *'Faber and Faber - 90 years of excellence in Cover design'*. Since its foundation in 1925 Faber and Faber has built a reputation as one of London's leading publishing houses partly due to the firm's insistence on good design and illustration. This lecture traces the history of Faber and Faber through its illustrations, covers and designs. Toby Faber is the grandson of the founder and will give personal insights and anecdotes about his time with the company. For further information see the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach



The next surgeries will take place on **Tuesday 5th September** between 10am and 12 noon. Drop in appointments may be available on the day. Ring 01732 440488 and leave a message at any time.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 30th September** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when there will be an all-day workshop on *'Stumpwork'* with Kay & Mick Dennis. The meetings start at 10am and 2pm and end with tea and cakes at about 4pm. For further information please contact

Otford Village Memorial Hall Needs a Deputy Treasurer Urgently

If you are computer literate, have a PC, Printer and Broadband, have good administrative skills and can attend a maximum 3 evening meetings a year we need you. You will be trained in our booking and receipts system, banking procedures and be ready to take over from our Treasurer in the event of a long-term absence, one of which is planned for the first 3 months of 2018 (the first since 2009)

During the absence of the Honorary Treasurer, we anticipate that banking cheques and paying bills will take a maximum of 3 hours a week.

If you are able and willing to help us manage and maintain our Village Hall, please contact our Honorary Treasurer by telephoning Derek Buck on 0195952331 or by email to ovmh.treasurer@otford.net

'The Three Musketeers'



Oxford Village Memorial Hall proudly presents 'The Three Musketeers' starring Three Half Pints. For one performance only on **Saturday 18th November** at 2.30pm. Doors open at 2pm.

Chaos, mayhem and slapstick stupidity reign supreme as the Three Half Pints swish their swords, buff their boots and flourish their feathers in their most ridiculous adventure yet. Will they defeat the dastardly evildoers? Will they save the damsel in distress? Will they read the book before writing this show?

Nobody knows... but you can bet the **CBeebies favourites** will provide a hilarious slapstick adventure of chivalry, swordplay and suddenly falling over.

The 17th century has never been so silly! The Three Half Pints are a slapstick comedy trio. *As Seen on CBeebies, Spot Bots & Justin's House*

Tickets prices are £12 for adults and £6 for children 5 -16 years old. Under 5's Free.

Tickets available from 1st September and can be purchased from Yvonne's (Telston Lane), The Oxford Emporium, Oxford Parish Council Offices and Wegottickets.com. Entry is ticket only and these are limited. The performance ends at around 4.30pm with an interval. A cash bar with limited range will be available.

The show is suitable for families and adults with a silly sense of humour. All profits go to the Oxford Village Memorial Renovation Fund

Reviews:

Your cheeks will hurt from smiling so much - Broadway Baby

The funniest thing I have ever seen - Mumsnet

The Three Half Pints dazzle with well-executed Monty Python-esque humour - Three Weeks

Heritage Centre artist for Sept/Oct - June Foreman



I have lived in Oxford for 18 years. I have always enjoyed art but I was married at 19 and had two children by the time I was 25 so art was put on the back burner. Fifty years later after retiring from my job in social services and helping my husband in his business I joined the Oxford Art Group after being on the waiting list for a year. This little dog has been drawn using oil crayons and pastels. I feel so blessed to be painting again after such a long time. If, you are reading this and wish you could paint and draw I would say don't wait 50 years, seize the day.



Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association

The next social evening will be on at the Woodman PH, High Street on **Monday 16th October** from 7.30pm. They look forward to seeing you.

The Shoreham Heavy Horse and Rural Crafts Show



The popular Heavy Horse show in Shoreham opens at 10am on **Sunday 3rd September** between 10am and 5pm. The event is fun for all the family. It combines demonstrations by heavy horses, the engines of England before steam power, with activities for children, a craft fair, a whole range of stalls with local products and a range of fast food booths. There are also displays of veteran cars, motorcycles, tractors and static engines. Tickets £9 adults, Senior Citizens £7, Children £5 (5-16yrs). All proceeds are used for charitable purposes by Lions Club of Sevenoaks.



Sevenoaks Literary Festival

This is now the 15th year of the Festival which takes place in various venues in Sevenoaks from **Friday 22nd September** to **Saturday 7th October**.

Speakers confirmed include **Alan Johnson, Prof Stephen Smith, Emma Harding, Juliet Barker, Michael Rosen, Sinclair McKay, David Crystal, Patricia Lovett, Mick Herron, Hilary Spurling, Laura Barnett, Kathryn Williams** and the sparkling young duo of **Literary Music**, who will present a programme based on the novels of **Jane Austen** - the bicentenary of whose death will be remembered this year. This year's eclectic programme will feature biographers, historians and novelists of every description, including writers with local associations, and our popular literary tea and literary lunch will return once again. 2017 will be another bumper year for the Sevenoaks Literary Festival. Tickets are available from The Sevenoaks Bookshop., High Street, Sevenoaks or call 01732 452055. The programme can be viewed on line at sevlitfest.com

Hospices of Hope Events



hospices of hope
making every day count
for patients, children and adults
Remaja and supporting carers

Knole Park Fun Run 5k or 2K - **Sunday 17th September** in Knole Park Sevenoaks. Enjoy an afternoon in Knole Park and help raise funds for Otford based charity, Hospices of Hope. Adults £12.50 (£15 on the day) and concessions are available for children and families. Bagpuss will be walking the 2km route and hopes that families will join him. Registration starts at 1.30pm.

Get into gear with more free cycle rides



Residents and visitors wishing to have fun and get fit for free can now do so with cycle rides offered by Sevenoaks District Council.

Rides are taking place as follows:

Sunday 24th September - Knole Park - 10.30am

Sunday 10th September - Knole Park - 10.30am

Places must be booked in advance as numbers are limited. To reserve places ring 01732 227000 or email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk. Visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/cycling for more information.

Have your say on the future of Sevenoaks District through the Local Plan



Residents in the Sevenoaks District are being urged to have their say on a new Local Plan which will help guide what can be built and what should be protected in the District up until 2035, in what is called the Issues and Options consultation.

Sevenoaks District Council is running the consultation from early August, with residents able to view information on the Council's website and then share their thoughts until **5th October** by filling out a survey, which will also be sent to every household in the District and publicised in a special edition of In Shape, going to every District household in August.

The Local Plan needs to achieve a balance as many residents want to continue to protect the rural nature of the District, being 93% Green Belt, with others voicing a need for additional employment, new medical, community, retail and leisure facilities.

Alongside transport and infrastructure, the plan considers needs for all types of new housing to ensure that the right mix is provided in the future.

The work carried out so far by the Council suggests the Green Belt can continue to be protected by providing homes and space for businesses in existing built up areas, with the Green Belt only being considered where land has already been built on (known as brownfield land) or in exceptional circumstances.

Cllr Robert Piper, Sevenoaks District Council Portfolio Holder for Planning, says: "Our new local plan will focus on the needs of local communities and reflect local issues. To properly do this we need people to get involved in the consultation.

"In August, residents will receive a short survey asking for their views on our Local Plan ideas which will take less than 15 minutes to complete.

"They can then return this in a freepost envelope supplied, or alternatively, complete the survey online.

"The Local Plan will affect us all for many years so we are urging people to get

involved and take part in our forthcoming survey - we want to hear what everyone has to say." Residents can now view the information about the Local Plan at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/issuesandoptions

Planning



The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council. Contact the Parish Clerk or SDC on 01732 227000. New applications

SE/17/01887 10, Shinecroft, Rye Lane

Erection of a first-floor side extension creating 2 new dormers. Extension to existing outbuilding and relocating an existing garage.

SE/17/0142 Broughton Manor, High Street

Demolition of existing greenhouse base and construction of new machinery store.

SE/17/01931 Maunders, St Michael's Drive

AMENDED The proposal description has been amended to read:
Installation of 3 roof lights to rear and 1 rooflight to side (already in place)

SE/17/01724 Lorien, St Michael's Drive

Pitched roofs on the two rear dormer windows, amendments to fenestration, inclusion of a roof lantern and removal of window on north-east elevation.

SE/17/02001 Maycroft, Shoreham Road

Demolition of an existing dwelling and garage. Construction of a replacement detached dwelling with associated landscaping. The reconfiguration of existing driveway and a replacement garage.

SE/17/02186 Martins, Shoreham Road

Proposed single storey side extension and external alterations. Work on SE/15/02917 has been commenced.

SE/17/02249 Foxhole, 14 Greenhill Road

Demolish existing garage. Erection of a two-storey double garage, to include a swimming pool room and a gym room in the roof with roof lights.

SE/17/02407 83a Pilgrims Way West

Minor material amendment to application SE/16/02221 for the demolition of existing conservatory. Raising of the roof to incorporate a new first floor, conversion of garage into habitable two storey side and single storey rear and side extension to show the reduction of rear gable and internal alterations.

SE/17/02339 12 Orchard Road

Two storey side, single storey rear extensions and rear dormer with Juliet balcony.

b.Results Received

SE/17/01180	White Hayes, 35 Station Road	
	Erection of a side extension	<i>Allowed</i>
SE/17/01232	The Oast House, Broughton Manor, High Street	
	Demolish an existing garage and replace it with an oak framed and clad summerhouse.	<i>Allowed</i>
SE/17/01011	40 High Street	
	Use as a single dwelling	<i>Allowed</i>
SE/17/01579	Heriots Croft, Twitton Lane	
	Erection of a single storey rear infill extension. New painted timber door to rear elevation.	<i>Allowed</i>
SE/17/01637	Lower Barn Cottage, Park Farm, High Street	
	Proposed cellar	<i>Allowed</i>
SE/17/01793	10 Hale Lane	
	Erection of single storey rear extension and alterations to front elevation fenestration.	<i>Allowed</i>
SE/17/01679	The Gables, Tudor Crescent	
	Erection of a detached glasshouse	<i>Allowed</i>
SE/17/01017	7&9 High Street	
	Change of windows	<i>Allowed</i>

c.Trees

SE/17/02147	Pilgrims Way Cottage, Pilgrims Way West	
	Crown reduction to 1 Copper Beech tree height by 2m and lateral spread by 2m. Removal of deadwood. Crown lift to give a 4m clearance from ground level.	
SE/17/02166	92, High Street	
	Removal of three Leylandii trees	

d. Appeals

SE/16/03867	The Birches, 28 The Butts	
	Development: 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.	
	An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the refusal by Sevenoaks District Council to grant planning permission for the development described above. Following consideration by the Planning Inspectorate <i>the Appeal is dismissed.</i>	

Rubbish and Garden Bags

Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £14.00 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.



Alternatively, for £45 a year Sevenoaks District Council will loan you a 240-litre garden waste wheelie bin. If space is limited then they can loan you a 140-litre bin for £30. Contact customer services on 01732 227000 for more details.

Parish Councillors Contact Details

<u>Chairman</u>		
Nick Rushby	Chantry Cottage The Green	525205
<u>Councillors</u>		
Philip Clucas	24 Tudor Drive	philip.clucas@otford.net
John Edwards-Winser	Oastbrook Telston Lane	522503
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	7 Leonard Avenue	howard_leicester@btconnect.com
Irene Roy	Castle House, Sevenoaks Rd	ireneroyatcastle@gmail.com
Jon Verrall	24 Pilgrims Way East	jon.verrall5@btinternet.com
Martin J. Whitehead	19 Coombe Road	524088

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the October newsletter is Friday 15th September