

Otford Parish Council
May Newsletter 2018
No 272

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 minutes, agendas and newsletters can be obtained via the web (also available in the library). **Please check out the new website at www.otfordpc.kentparishes.gov.uk**. The next meetings will be on **14th May** and **11th June** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

From the Chairman:

When I accepted the role of Chairman of the Parish Council last year, it was one the condition that I would delegate much of the work to my colleagues. I am delighted to report that they have accepted this challenge and so our achievements over the past year have been the result of team-work.

By the time you read this, we will have held the 2018 Annual Assembly of the Electors of the Parish (what a lovely title!) on Monday 16th April. Sadly, very few residents attended but if you were there you heard reports from the chairs of the four standing Council committees - Finance and General Purposes, Planning, Recreation and Environment, and Amenities and Highways - as well as the people leading the working groups dealing with traffic management in the Village, sustainable tourism, and the Otford Neighbourhood Plan. Together, these give an overview of what has been happening in the Village over the past year, together with our aspirations for the future.

It was also my pleasure at the meeting, to present the Kirsch Cup to Bea Henderson. Otford Sports Association awards the Kirsch Cup every year to a promising young local sportsperson, or a person who has made a valuable contribution to any village recreational activity. You can read more about the Kirsch Cup, Bea and the other contenders below.

If you were not able to get to the meeting, you will be able to read a full report on the Otford Parish website at <http://www.otfordpc.kentparishes.gov.uk>

Over the coming months, look out for more updates on the Neighbourhood Plan and on progress with the future of the Archbishop's Palace. We live in exciting times!

The Kirsch Cup

Oxford Sports Association awards the Kirsch Cup every year to a promising young local sportsperson, or a person who has made a valuable contribution to any village recreational activity and it is presented at the Annual Parish Meeting which this year is being held at 7pm Monday April 16 in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall. This year the cup was presented to **Bea Henderson**, who is in Year 6 of Oxford Primary School. Bea is an acrobatic gymnast who is so modest that even her classmates and children have only just found out how talented she is. She trains for a minimum of 15 hours a week, as well as keeping up her school work and has competed in her sport at regional and now international level. She will be competing in the World Championships and she is on track to represent her country in the next couple of years. Although her sport is not currently part of the Olympics, she is working at an Olympic standard.

Bea was nominated by her School because of her modesty and the fact that she has kept this to herself and just got on with the training and dedication that is needed to progress in her sport while still achieving her best in her school work.

Other nominees for the Kirsch Cup were:

- **Suzie Brown**, age 11, who does Irish dancing and whose squad came in the world top 10 at her age group. Suzie helps the leader organise the group as well as performing. She also plays several instruments, is in a band, and is a general "go to" at school.
- **Martha Booth**, age 11, sprinter/athlete. She is in every team the primary school has, excels at and wins all the sprints easily and wants to be an Olympian runner.
- **Henry Martin**, age 13, Skippers the Oxford u13 cricket team, but far more impressively excels at fencing/epee at county level.
- **Laura Holmes**, age 11, County chess runner up at her age group.
- **Henrietta Booth** who is part of the Trinity School netball team who have won their inter schools league 4 years in a row.
- **Charlie Taylor**, aged 10, who plays for Oxford United Junior Under 11 Football Team and who has scored 51 goals already this season.

It is a remarkable line-up for the Village and our congratulations go to Bea and all of the runners-up.

Otford Parish Council - Councillor Vacancy

A vacancy exists on the Parish Council which may be filled by co-option.

If you would like to serve as a Councillor please apply in writing or by e-mail to the Clerk, providing brief background details and stating why you would like to join the Council. To qualify, a person must be a British subject, aged over 18ys old and an elector, must reside in, or within 3 miles of the Otford Parish boundary or occupy as owner or tenant any land or premises therein, or have their principal or only place of work there, and must not be disqualified from holding office as a Councillor. If you require further information please contact the Clerk at The School House, 21, High Street, Otford, Kent, TN15 5PG, Tel 01959 524808 or e-mail clerk@otfordpc.co.uk

Otford Village Fete

Monday 28th May 2018 - 11.00am - 4.00pm



This year we will be commemorating the end of World War One, when our troops finally returned home after four long years of conflict. We want those who visit our annual fete to enjoy the day and to support the work the Committee do to help Associations within the Village. Even though you might not be attending you can still help by buying raffle tickets when our members come knocking on your door during May. The money we have raised in past years has helped Otford Heritage Centre;

Sevenoaks First Responders and Otford Guides to name but a few. To view what's on offer at this year's Fete and read more about the charitable side of our work visit the website www.otfordvillagefete.org.uk

St Bartholomew's Church Fair



St Bartholomew's Church Fair will be taking place this year on the **VILLAGE GREEN** on **Saturday 16th June** from 1pm. (PLEASE NOTE NEW START TIME) 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 of 'The World Cup' 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.



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 would like to remind you to be aware of a particular scam that is presently occurring in the local area.

- You get a phone call allegedly from the Police, Inland Revenue or National Crime Agency.
- They tell you - you cannot trust your bank.
- They send a taxi to pick you up and take you to withdraw cash or to purchase foreign currency at a bureau exchange or arrange to send the 'police' to collect the cash from your phone.
- They telephone you multiple times to apply pressure to do the above.
- They tell you what to tell your bank when the staff question you.
- **THIS IS A SCAM DO NOT FALL VICTIM.**
- **DO NOT GIVE OUT YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE OR BANK DETAILS TO ANY CALLERS.**

If branch staff are asking you questions, then they are trying to protect you from losing your money to fraudsters.

Community Football Match



The Annual Community football match will take place on **Wednesday 16th May** on Otford Recreation Ground kicking off at 6.30pm. Money raised will go towards West Kent Mind. Please go along and support.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 17th May** at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold their AGM with resolutions and sales tables. For more details or please contact the Secretary Sharna Peyto on 07860 463656.

Otford Evening WI

The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 10th May**. This is their Annual meeting and they hope as many members as possible will attend. Linda will be doing one of her fantastic quizzes - not to be missed! Visitors, are very welcome to join us and if you need any further information, please contact their President on 01959 524831.

Otford & District Historical Society



The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 6th May** at 8pm (Doors open at 7.30pm for refreshments) in Otford Village Memorial Hall Alan Williams will talk about '*Through Kent to the Continent by Boat Train*' 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 1940s Society will take place on **Friday 25th May** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm when the talk by Melody Foreman is about '*Mary Ellis-Spitfire Girl*'. Her story is one of the most remarkable of the war as this young woman, serving with the Air Transport Auxiliary flew more than 400 Spitfires and piloted 76 different types of aircraft including fast-fighters to huge four engine bombers; landed at over 200 airfields and flew 1,100 hours alone. Further details on 07927 748773. Admission is £3. Tea, coffee and cake served during the interval.

Otford Library News



- IT help is now available on Tuesdays 10.00am-12.00pm (instead of Mondays) and Saturdays 10.00-12.00pm.
- It is essential to make an advance booking for this either by phoning 03000 41 31 31 and asking to be put through to Otford library or by coming into the library to book an appointment. The library has free public Wi-Fi. Alternatively, customers are welcome to use one of the public computers. There is no charge for this service.
- Storytime, every Tuesday (term time only only) 2.15-2.45pm. This is a free activity.
- Talk time, every Monday 11.30-12.30am. All welcome to join, sit in the library for tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat. We would love to see some new faces.
- Baby Bounce and rhyme time, every Monday 11.00-11.30am throughout the year. No need to book and this is a free activity.
- **Lorraine would like to thank the Otford Art Group for some wonderful paintings they had recently done to brighten up the children's section of the library. They are on display and she would like to encourage people to go and view them.**

Otford Gardeners' Society



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 1st May** at 8pm, when Mr Hilary Newman will talk about 'The ABC of pruning'. For further details please contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or e-mail gardeners@otford.net

Then on Bank Holiday Monday 28th May whatever the weather the Gardeners' Society will have a stall at the Village Fete selling ornamental and edible plants raised by members.

Sevenoaks Flower Club



The Sevenoaks Flower Club have recently moved their monthly meetings to Otford Village Memorial Hall. Their next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th May** starting at 1.45pm. Their demonstrator at this meeting will be Robin White, a florist since 1981 who is very experienced and entertaining. His subject is 'The link is in the green'. Visitors are very welcome at

£5 and Annual membership is £37.

Otford Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre is run entirely by volunteers and one of its present great needs is for someone to lead the volunteer stewards, in particular by arranging the rota covering Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. If this is of interest to you, or you would like to know what other vacancies there are at this time, please ring the chair of the management committee Doug Cracknell on 01959 522325.

Kemsing Singers



Spring into Summer with the Kemsing Singers on **Saturday 19th May** at 7.30pm in St Edith Hall, Kemsing with 'Things ain't what they used to be'. They will take you Flying somewhere over the rainbow to the Best of all Possible Worlds. Enjoy the Rhythm of Life and more from Les Mis, Fiddler on the Roof, Oliver, My Fair Lady and

Candide - music and song from a time when the sun always shone.

Tickets £8 from 01959 523752 or at the door. www.kemsingsingers.com



RSPB Sevenoaks Local Group

On **Thursday 3rd May** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall they will hold their AGM followed by a talk by Alan Loweth on 'Broadwater Warren - how to make a nature reserve'. Alan is a volunteer co-ordinator at the RSPB's Wealden office, and will describe how this post-war conifer plantation is being returned to its original heathland habitat, for the benefit of species such as nightjar and woodlark. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.



Otford-Neuchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association

The next social gathering will be on **Monday 30th April** at 7.30pm at the Woodman PH when they shall be showing a film in French with English subtitles. Do join them.

15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group Walk



We set off at 09:45am from the recreation ground with a compliment of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and parents. Eight hours and 16 miles later, having dropped off the younger members at pre-determined points, the leaders and older Scouts (along with a smattering of parents)

arrived where the River Darent meets The Thames. We only got lost the once, circling a football pitch near Horton Kirby looking for an obvious gate back onto the path. Thanks to our supporters; those who walked with and/or sponsored us and those who picked up the walkers from the end point. We have raised approx. £1200 for WaterAid and a further £200 for Toilet Twinning.

Our Website <https://www.otfordscouts.org.uk/> will shortly be updated with a couple of pictures of the walk. We are also in the process of writing and uploading a history of the Group, which may be of interest to ex Scouts, Scouters and those with a general interest in the social history of the village.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild



The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 26th May** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will have an all-day workshop with Alison Smart on 'Patchwork/quilting bag'. 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.

Come & Play



Calling all babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their grown-ups. Join us at the Otford Evangelical Free Church, 81, Pilgrims Way West on a Friday morning during term-time from 9.15am to 11.15am for our new toddler group called 'Come and Play'. In our church hall you will find lots of fun play activities, including painting, playdough, trains, puzzles, books, roleplay and construction. Each session will have a theme and include lots of opportunities for grown-ups to try out all the activities with their children. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine at otfordefc@gmail.com

The Paperdashery Creative Club

Come along as little or as often as you like.

Take time for yourself, feel more positive, creative & inspired. Make new friends at The Paperdashery creative workshops in Otford.

All materials are included & no experience or artistic ability is necessary!

May sessions include: paper bird collage workshop, matchbox mini art workshop mandala design journal page and make paper flowers for Cinco di Mayo

Sessions cost £7 each, or just £25 for 5 sessions when you block book with the code CREATIVECLUB. Spaces are limited, so please book early.

Visit www.thepaperdashery.com or email gude@thepaperdashery.com to find out more!

First Steps



First Steps has returned to Otford Methodist Church Hall. This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers are 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. The next meetings are on the **2nd & 16th May**. Hazel Terry on 01959 523047 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 17th May** when John Iddon will talk about 'Great Twentieth Art Collectors; Public benefactors or Robber Barons'. The core of most of the great public art collections come

from private collectors. This talk looks into some of these collectors and the art they acquired, often via colourful, adventurous and sometimes scandalous dealings with artists and dealers. Collectors will include: Isabella Stuart Gardner, Henry Clay Frick, Albert Barnes, Peggy Guggenheim, Gertrude Stein and Charles Saatchi. See the website www.knoledfas.org.uk.

Otford Ukelele Institute (Oui!)



- Live in or near Otford, want to have fun playing a Uke, and make friends whilst doing it then join Oui.

Oui currently comprises of 5 men and women who are starting to learn to play the Ukelele together. They are a self-help group, using on-line YouTube lessons, practising songs with few chords with the aim of learning more each month. We intend to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 8pm for about an hour and a half in a hall in the centre of the village, with the plan to transfer to a pub when experience has been gained. If you would like to join them, please contact oui9@btinternet.com

Parkinson's Sevenoaks Branch

The branch, formed in 1991, has run weekly exercise classes for people with Parkinson's for more than 20 years and for the last three years these have been held in the Otford Methodist Church Hall. Two one hourly sessions are held on **Thursdays** - the first class at 2.00pm is for the less able participant with many exercises done sitting in a chair - the second class at 3.00pm is for the more able. The instructor is a qualified physiotherapist. A small charge of £4 is made which includes tea and biscuits after each session. Contact for more information is jacquelinehart217@gmail.com or 01732 360512.

Heritage Centre artist for May & June



The Heritage Centre Artist for May and June is Pat Smith. Pat says "My first introduction to painting, after school years, was when Farningham WI needed one more member in order to run an art course. I can still remember how that piece of white paper staring at me filled me with dread. Thus, my saying before I start anything *Well it's only a piece of paper!* Since then I have been taught by Carole Robson at the Adult Education Centre where I experienced the challenge and excitement of water colour painting. I now live in Otford and enjoy drawing with the very friendly members of the Otford Art Group".

Otford Diabetes Support Group



The first walk of this group is on **Friday 18th May** at 10am meeting at the village car park for a walk to Shoreham with a coffee stop midway. Approximately 3 miles and fairly flat. For further details please contact

Judycardinal4@gmail.com

Volunteer Drivers



Do you own a car? Could you take an elderly/disabled person to a medical appointment or shopping just once a week? Dial 2 Drive need volunteer drivers to cope with the increasing number of passengers who wish to use this service. The role is flexible could be once a month or daily depending on the time the driver can offer. In the last six months drivers completed over £5,320 journeys across Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge. Please contact them on 0300 777 1200 or driving@imago.community if you would like to help.

Next Kemsing Players' Production

The Hound of the Baskervilles



The Kemsing Players' next production to be held on **26th, 27th and 28th April** and will be 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' adapted for the stage by Sue Davnall from Arthur Conan Doyle's classic Sherlock Holmes novel. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead in the yew alley of his ancestral home

in the wilds of Dartmoor, with the footprint of a giant hound nearby, it appears that the family curse has struck again. Can Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson solve the mystery before Sir Charles' heir comes to an equally terrifying end? Performances are at 8pm on Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th April. Tickets will be £10 (*concessions £8 for the Thursday performance only*) and will go on sale from Monday 2nd April at Dynes Road Dry Cleaners, by phone on 07976 835895 or via e-mail at kemsing.players@live.co.uk

Classic and Vintage Car Show & Hill Climb



Westerham will be taken back in time once again next month when it hosts the annual classic and vintage car show and hill climb. Organised by Valence School, the event returns on **Sunday 13th May** from 9am - 4.30pm.

The historic school grounds are transformed into a vintage car lovers' heaven with a huge collection to look at, take photos of and meet the owners to find out their rich history. Plus, the Hill Climb event is an eagerly-

awaited crowd-pleaser. Cars are driven around a short circuit with a fabulous commentary of the car's history and owners' stories too. The hill climb had been missing from the town's calendar for 20 years but last year's return was very much welcomed! Hundreds of people came through the gates last year to enjoy not only the car show and hill climb, but also the BBQ, bar and stalls and this year's event is set to be even bigger, with a car jumble and entertainment planned too. It's organised by The Friends of Valence School to raise money for activities, trips and equipment for their pupils who have physical disabilities or complex medical needs. Places for the Hill Sprint are limited, so early registration is advised to avoid disappointment. Registration is £20 plus £5 on the day per sprint. To take part in the Hill Sprint, please email details of your vehicle, and a photo if possible, to friends@valence.kent.sch.uk

Car show registration is £5. Spectators can pay on arrival - £4 per person (under 5s free) or £12 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children). Ample free parking on-site. For more information about the event or the Friends of Valence School, go to valenceschool.com/events

Citizens Advice Sevenoaks - Otford Outreach



The next surgery will take place on **Tuesday 1st May** between 10am and 12 noon. Drop in appointments may be available on the day. Ring 01732 440488 and leave a message at any time.

Planning

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

a. New applications

SE/18/00422 Quafe Engineering Ltd, Vestry Road
Proposal is for the erection of three new industrial units for B1, B2 and B8 use.

SE/18/00849 Woodside, 9, Greenhill Road

Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension with two roof lights with new retaining wall to form patio area with steps.

SE/18/00810 47 Sidney Gardens

Demolition of rear conservatory, shed and front porch. Erection of a single storey rear extension with rooflights; front porch and drop kerb to create a new in and out access. Sun tunnel to the front and rooflights to both sides and rear.

SE/18/00846 Wayside, Shoreham Road

Removal of rear section of existing roof to enable the raising of the rear roof to incorporate a part single and part two storey rear extension and new roof.



The erection of a single storey front extension and alteration to the fenestration.

SE/18/00974 **Hilldrop Cottage, 7 Station Road**

Proposed two storey side and single storey rear and side extensions. Proposed loft conversion and associated landscaping. Alterations to fenestration and roof. New porch.

SE/18/01019 **Bubblestone Farm, The Green**

Replacement staircase, ground floor window and installation of first floor bathroom.

b. Results Received

SE/17/03973 **63, Pilgrims Way West**

Demolition of rear extension. Erection of a single storey extension to rear with chimney of bungalow *Allowed*

SE/18/00053 **21, The Charne**

Erection of dormer to rear and two roof lights on the front elevation to create a habitable room within the roof space. *Allowed*

SE/18/00300 **10, The Old Walk**

Conversion of garage to part storage, part living accommodation and erect a first-floor side extension above the existing extension. Change cladding to first floor front elevation. *Allowed*

SE/18/00100 **10, Shinecroft**

Replacement porch on front elevation and provision of flat roof dormer to the front. *Allowed*

SE/18/00212 **18 Hopfield Close**

Loft conversion of existing residential building with new window *Allowed*

SE/18/00538 **12 Orchard Road**

Demolition of front porch, side extension and chimney. Erection of a two-storey side, single storey front and rear extensions with rooflights plus landscaping works to front garden to provide two parking spaces. *Allowed*

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the June newsletter is **Friday 11th May**



Please support your local shops, pubs and restaurant.