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). Copies of the Helplines Directory can be printed off for residents if required. They can all be read via http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil. The next meetings will be on 12th November and 10th December at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can be found on the website and at the back of this newsletter. Under the Localism Act 2011 Otford Parish Council has adopted a new Members Code of Conduct. This is also available on the website or at the Council office.

Chairman’s Report

The community of Otford is today celebrating the news that it has received a £35,000 funding boost from SITA Trust for an inclusive young children’s play area at Hale Lane Recreation Ground.

The equipment includes a climbing apparatus, different types of swing, a gravity bowl roundabout and a multi-activity toddler-zone, which includes a slide. The area will be fenced for safety and in a visible location. Otford Parish Council is thrilled to have been awarded the SITA Trust Grant enabling it to provide a much needed amenity on the outskirts of the village.

Jools Granville of SITA Trust said “There was a clearly identified and well documented need for play area improvements in this location and we were delighted to be able to provide the funding to create a fun new area.” SITA Trust provides funding through the Landfill Communities Fund. Funding is available for projects that enhance communities and enrich nature. The Council would also like to thank the Otford Society, the Fete Committee, Otford.net, Nick Chard via a KCC members grant and the SDC Big Community Fund for their contributions to this playground.

Your council organised another “dog-poo” flag day on the 3rd October for the recreation ground and you will be heartened to hear that we only collected 6 droppings. This is a lot better than the 46 reported a few months ago - clearly you must be taking notice of the adverse publicity and picking up behind you. Thank you very much from the Parish Council and the users of the sports facilities on the recreation ground.

The Highways committee would like you to report accidents and near misses to the office to support our campaign for safer streets in Otford. Kent Highways services only take into account reports originating from the police. Your extra input is vital.

You cannot have failed to notice that the willow tree that was pruned hard last year has sprouted new growth with a vengeance and is looking magnificent and that now the reeds have grown there is more wildlife on the pond.
Remembrance Day 2012
Please remember that traffic will be halted at the pond between 10.45am and 11.15am on Remembrance Day **Sunday 11th 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. Thank you.

Otford Christmas Shopping Festival
On **Sunday 25th 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 to watch including Bobbo the Clown, Morris Dancers and the Primary School & Community Choir. 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, 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. The Heritage Centre will also be open so please go along and see the new displays.

St Bartholomew's Christmas Market
On **Saturday 24th November** between 10am and 12 noon in the St Bartholomew's Church Centre they will be holding their Christmas Market. Stalls will include gift wrapping, cards, Christmas tree and table decorations, candles, cakes, winter woollies, Christmas sweets and chocolates and a super raffle is planned. Seasonal refreshments will be available and a pick a present from the tree for children.

Tree of Light
The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 14th 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 Otford Parish Council. The Tree of Light will remain lit up until after the New Year. Donations will once again be going to The Hospice in the Weald.

Otford Primary School - Christmas Bazaar
On **Saturday 1st December** between 12noon and 3pm Otford Primary School will be holding its Christmas Bazaar, including Santa’s grotto, mulled wine, hot dogs, tea and cakes, a raffle, silent auction, tombola, kids games, carol singing, books, toys and much more. Please go along and support the school.

Otford Art Group
The Otford Art Group are holding a Sale of original paintings, prints and cards on **Sunday 25th November** between 10.30am and 4.00pm in the Club Room, Otford Memorial Hall. There will be a unique display of sports personalities and events painted in oil by Ken Gunderson. Admission is free, Tea, Coffee & biscuits 50p

Christmas Wreath making Workshop
Denise Thompson our village’s own designer florist is offering the chance to come and make a Christmas Wreath with the help of her expert knowledge. The cost will be £30. Everything will be provided (except scissors/secateurs) and light refreshments will add to the fun. This will take place at 7pm on **Saturday 1st December** in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Places are limited so please book on 01959 525009.
Treat yourself to an evening of relaxation

Chill out in the run up to Christmas and learn relaxation techniques on **Friday 23rd November** between 7.30pm and 9.00pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall. Price £8 including refreshments. To reserve a place call Brenda on 01959 525969.

**Cookery Classes / Demonstrations**

If you are interested in cookery then contact Angela at the Hotpot Cookery School based at Bramley Lodge, 87, Pilgrims Way West. She will be doing classes/ demonstrations on the following dates **Thursday 8th November, Friday 16th November & Thursday 22nd November**

This Autumn she’s incorporated apples, pears, hazelnuts and game to create a menu which is both seasonal as well as festive - ideal for entertaining during the cold months ahead. On the day, you need to arrive by 9.30 am when you’ll be given a pack of recipes. The demonstration will start promptly at 9.45 am. During the morning you’ll enjoy a cup of freshly-brewed coffee with warm cake, sampling of more dishes and finally a three-course lunch with wine will be served at around 1 pm. The day will finish by 2.45 pm approx. Price is £65. Contact Angela on angela.jordan@btinternet.com, Mobile 07876 254613 or home on 01959 523052

**Getting the most from The Library**

The Parish Council will also be holding a drop in event on **Saturday 17th November** at 10.30am at the coffee morning in the Otford Village Hall. A member of the Kent Library Service will also be there. Please come along and give us your views.

**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.

**Police Matters**

Our local PCSO is Jane Wright. She covers Otford, Shoreham, Dunton Green and Riverhead. To report a non urgent crime or to contact Jane, please call 101. If you wish some crime prevention advice please visit the Post office in Otford where there is a stand filled with information for you, Please do not hesitate to contact Jane if you require anything further.

Surgery - Post Office Otford – **Friday 23rd November** between 1pm and 2pm

**Otford Short Mat Bowls**

The Otford Short Mat Bowls Club has stated their new season and is recruiting for new members. We play in the Otford Village Memorial Hall with three sessions per week, on Thursday afternoons, Friday evening and Sunday afternoons. This is an ideal game for giving gentle exercise to those little used muscles, together with a social atmosphere for both males and females and if you are retired what an ideal way to help fill up your diary and meet new people. If you would like to come along and try out the game or require further information would you please contact our Secretary, Barbara Taylor on barbarataylor149@btinternet.com or Chairman Doug Dickerson on shedoug@otford.net or telephone 01959 524183

**Otford Twinning**

We are looking forward to our next social gathering at The Woodman Public House on **Monday 26th November** from 7.45pm (drinks at your own expense) You are very welcome to join us. You will find photographs and other details about our Twinning activities on [www.Otford.info](http://www.Otford.info) through Quick Links (top right) under Otford Twinning and also do look at [www.john-jumelage.com](http://www.john-jumelage.com)
Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club will be hosting a Wine Tasting in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm on [Wednesday 28th November], which will be free for members and £6 for guests. The tasting will be given by a private wine maker who owns a vineyard in France. Prior booking is essential. Please contact the Secretary Olive Cherry on 01732 458240 to reserve your place.

Guide Christmas Post Box

Otford’s Brownies and Guides will once again be running a Christmas Post Service to deliver all your cards for Otford Village. A post box will be available in Otford library between [Thursday 22nd November and Thursday 20th December] inclusive, during opening hours, with a second box in the Parish Office available Monday to Friday 8.30am - 12.30pm between the same dates. Stamps will be 25p per card this year with all money going to their chosen charities. Please give generously and support them by posting early to ensure this year’s service is a successful one. Thank you.

Otford Library - Free Craft Session

There will be a free Craft Activity Session at Otford Library on [Saturday 17th November] from 10am until 12noon. All Children must be accompanied by an Adult. Please phone to ensure a place 01959 522488.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the winter programme will take place on [Wednesday 21st November] in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm when the Rev Malcolm Newman will talk about ‘Parliament and the strange laws of England’. Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild

The next meeting will take place on [Saturday 24th November] in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold a Christmas lunch and then in the afternoon there will be a talk by Rose Pond on ‘Antique workboxes’. The meetings start at 10am and 2pm and end at about 4pm. For further information please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

Quilling Guild

The next meeting will be on [Saturday 10th November] between 1.30pm and 4.30pm in the Hope Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Otford Oast WI

The meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The next meeting will be on [8th November] when they will have ‘Edible gifts for Xmas’ with Claire the Chef. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 450618 for more details.

Otford Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will be on [13th November] when Lucy Watts will give a ‘Massage Demonstration’. Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at [www.otford.info](http://www.otford.info) with the link to the WI. Contact Kath Larkin on 01959 522355 for more details.

Otford Evening WI

The next meeting is on [8th November] when Ian White will be telling them of the ‘Origins of Xmas Cards’. At the October meeting they were told of how successful the Boot Fair had been earlier in the month. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.
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. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com.

The next meeting will be held on 15th November when Libby Horner will talk about ‘Masks - The History of a Universal Phenomenon’ - Masks have been part of the human psyche from time immemorial, associated with rites of passage, rituals & religious festivals, concealment and drama. Masks can be transitory, made from perishable materials or permanent and made from valuable metals and precious stones. They can be exceptionally beautiful or chillingly frightening. They have been part of world history for 400 years and part of the cultural heritage of many countries.

The Darent Valley Choir

The Darent Valley Choir will be performing ‘Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols’ and ‘In Terra Pax by Gerald Finzi’ for their Christmas concert this year. This will take place on the Saturday 15th December in The Drive Methodist Church in Sevenoaks. They will also be singing round the tree in Trafalgar Square from 7-8pm on Tuesday 11th December. They have done this for over twenty years now, collecting for Demelza House Children’s Hospice, so if you are in London on that day they would love to see you for one or even both of these events.

Picture of the Month for November & December

This month’s painting to be found in the Heritage Centre is by Sue Isted. Sue took up painting after her first child was born 22 years ago. At school she never took art seriously and was considered a ‘no hoper’ by the art teacher. She started classes at Sevenoaks Adult Education centre and then progressed to Chipstead Art Group under the guidance of Eirlys Hollands who introduced her to the joy of using pastels. Now, Sue is with the Otford Art Group with whom she is very much at home. She mainly loves painting animals and portraits, older faces with character being of particular fascination. Occasionally she dabbles in acrylics and watercolour but always returns to pastels for sculptural quality.

Otford Methodist Church Wednesday Afternoon Women’s Fellowship

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport.

November
7th - Edith Nesbit - Margaret McCarthy
14th - Port Sunlight and the Soap Makers - David Williams
21st - Pub Lunch at Crown Point - leave at 11.45am
28th - A Country House Christmas - Pat Mortlock

December
5th - Christmas meditation
12th - Christmas lunch

BUY IT BABY! Baby and Children’s Fair with Nearly New Sale

In Otford Village Memorial Hall a Christmas Special on Saturday 1st December between 1pm-3pm. Raising a young family can be a phenomenally expensive exercise, but with a bit of ‘nearly-new-know-how’ you can save up to 90 per cent on most of your purchases and kit out your kids with top branded items. Wanting the best for your children is only natural when you become a parent, but unfortunately it also means you need endless pots of money if you want to keep up with the latest trends and ensure that their nursery equipment/clothes/books/toys etc are updated frequently. That's why Buy it Baby! events were born back in 2010. We offer you the perfect opportunity to have the best - but for less! The reality is that if it's available new, it’s available nearly-new! Our events are filled with tables offering bundles of amazing quality branded items that are sold directly to you by tried and tested mums from loving homes. You will regularly find nursery equipment such as moses baskets, cots, monitors, bouncers and ride-ons, bumbos, buggies, prams,
clothes, books, toys, scooters – the list goes on! Our events are also open to local entrepreneurial parents and small businesses who are selling products aimed at Babies & Children such as gifts and accessories as well as local activity groups who will give you ideas on what's going on locally to keep you and your little one(s) stimulated and having fun together! Contact details www.buyitbaby.co.uk or Tel - 07958 762828.

**Hospice of Hope Events**

**Friday 23 November**  - Quiz Night at the Otford Tea Rooms

Challenge your brains before Christmas hits! Take on our Quiz Master once more, come and enjoy an informal and fun evening.

7.30pm, teams of 4 -6, £12pp to include supper

**Thursday 6 December**  - Shopping, Dining and Culinary Christmas Tips - Ladies Lunch at Brandshatch Place Hotel & Spa

Enjoy mulled wine on arrival whilst shopping for last minute Christmas gifts at our Christmas Market. A festive lunch will be served after which you will hear from the Executive Chef at Brandshatch Place with those unanswered culinary Christmas questions!

Market open from 11am – 4.30pm, lunch served at 1pm, £29.50pp to include Christmas market, glass of mulled wine, three course lunch with a glass of wine, coffee and mince pies plus a cookery demonstration.

For further information on either of the above or to purchase tickets, please contact Wendy on 01959 525110 or wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

**Planning**

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council in October. 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/12/02300  4 Sevenoaks Road

Change of use of ground floor residential room to retail use non food.

SE/12/02364  Leyland, Shoreham Road

Demolition of existing porch and erection of replacement front porch

SE/12/02548  Land rear of 77&79 Pilgrims Way West

Erection of a two bed detached chalet bungalow with attached garage and two 3/4 bed detached houses with integral garages and accessed from Orchard Road

**b. Results Received**

SE/12/00805  Hopgarden Farm, Telston Lane

Use of site for a single gypsy family with provision of mobile home, touring caravan, utility building and installation of septic tank  

Refused

SE/11/02762  Hillway, Pilgrims Way West

Demolition of existing dwelling house and erection of a new replacement dwelling as amended by plans received 4.4.12

Allowed

SE/12/01956  Moat Bungalow, Station Road

Erection of a new wall at front of property

Allowed

SE/12/01977  30 Greenhill Road

Demolition of existing dwelling and garages, erection of replacement dwelling with detached double garage.

Revised application to refused scheme SE/12/00609

Allowed

SE/12/01206  Land adj to Mount Path Cottage, Clan Cottage and High Point, Pilgrims Way East

Replace hoggin with block pavers on trackway from Pilgrims Way East to Clan Cottage as per condition 3 of SE/09/00602/DETAIL with minor amendments to assist vehicle movement and enhance pedestrian safety.

Allowed
c. Tree works
SE/12/02427 23 High Street
Cut back trees to halfway between the building and fence line (conservation area)

SE/12/02672 12 Hopfield Close
To reduce the crowns and height of the three poplar trees by 30% (TPO)

d. Appeals
SE/11/03009/OUT - Bartram Farm Business Estate, Old Otford Road - Appeal ref APP/G2245/A/12/2183366/NWF - Outline application for Demolition of existing and redevelopment to provide a Gym/Health Club (Class D2), Children’s Nursery (Class D1) and Office Building (Class B1) with some matters reserved as amplified by additional transport statement received 06.01.12.

SE/12/00556/HOUSE - Willowbrook, Old Otford Road - Appeal ref APP/G2245/D/12/2181976 - Demolition of the lean-to roofed extension to the kitchen, the existing balcony roof and parapet, and the erection of an extension in place of the existing patio area, which will fill in the ‘L’ shape of the present building. The flat roofed balcony area will contain a lantern light and glass balustrade to the perimeter (Re-submission).

Parish Councillors Contact Details

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<td>Douglas G. Cracknell</td>
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OTFORD

STRICTLY CHRISTMAS
TEA DANCE

Friday 14th December
2pm - 4pm
Otford Village Memorial Hall

Just come and have Fun - no dance experience needed
Tea & cakes provided

Organised by Paul (KCC Warden) and Parish Council Office
with Professional dance instructor Colin

Call 01959 524808 if you’d like to tango!