Parish Chairman's News - May 2013

Now that spring is arriving you might see the Speed-watch team operating round Otford again. Last year we were very effective, so watch out for a letter or visit from the police if you were caught driving above the speed limit. We now have police approval for 12 more sites in Otford and Risk Assessments have been issued. Lorry Watch will be the next initiative we will be setting up, (tracking large lorries through the village High Street) so if anyone wants to join the teams, please contact Sue in the parish office.

The long awaited children's playground on the Hale Lane recreation ground was finally opened on the 6th April with between 50 and 100 children all eagerly waiting to try out the new apparatus. 'Silly Billy' and Billy Callway (our Olympic torch bearer) officiated at the opening with the ribbon being cut by two young helpers selected by lucky ticket.

By the time you read this article your intrepid twinning members will have made another visit to our French counterparts at Neuchatel-Hardelot, so look forward to a visit report next month.

Now that the fine weather is threatening to return I await the reports of Dog Fouling on the recreation ground or anywhere else in Otford which have been dropping off recently indicating that our advertising campaign must have had some effect. However, it could be a problem, which shouldn't be a problem at all. There are plenty of red bins available, so please use them and do not throw the bags into the hedgerow. It is very anti-social and potentially health threatening not to pick up after your dog. If your dog is caught, you risk having to pay a fine of up to £1,000 or an on the spot fixed penalty of £25.
If you see a lorry damaging the grass surrounds of the pond, note the date, time, registration number and any other distinguishing marks and report it to the parish office as soon as possible. We have successfully claimed from the last three companies that inflicted damage, we just need to be observant.

It has been pointed out to me that the well pruned willow tree is showing signs of recovery. Don’t let this fool you - eventually it will have to be removed, but only after its replacement shows signs of growing.

New planters have been purchased and set up outside the Chemist and the Antique shop. The remaining one, which used to be by the car-park entrance is now going to be located on the Village Green.

I have been reminded by the planning chairman that planning meetings, which are held fortnightly in the parish office, are open meetings for all to attend. Please contact the clerk for details.

**Annual Assembly**

This is notification for the Annual Assembly of the Electors of the Parish, more commonly called the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held, in the Club Room of the Village Hall on **Monday 20th May** at 7pm for refreshments before a 7.30pm start. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village and to hear reports from village organisations so please attend if you can.

**Otford Village Fete**

This year the theme will be Kent - Garden of England, and we have tried to include as many Kent based companies as possible. Our live music entertainers are from Kent and our Otford Societies will have their own stalls. Unfortunately the days of having a procession through our village are over but we will have a procession with local schoolchildren parading round the recreation ground at 1.00pm. There are lots to do, whether you want to take part in our Dog Show, run by Elands Veterinary Clinic (don't forget to register at 12noon for this very popular activity) or enjoy a ride on our kiddies' roundabout. We have stalls selling a range of homemade items from local produce and a tent selling Kent beers. Entry is £1.00 per person, children under 11 enter free of charge. Visit our website www.otford.info/villagefete for more details about what is going on. And finally, we do need volunteers to help put on the fete, if you can spare 2 or 3 hours on the day please email patty.chatterjee@virgin.net. Remember all the committee give several days during the year to put on the fete enjoyed by more than 6000 people and you can help them by giving up just a couple of hours on the day.

**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**

Dear residents, My name is Jane Wright I am your local PCSO and I cover Otford, Shoreham, Dunton Green and Riverhead. If you need crime prevention advice please visit
Otford post office I have a leaflet stand there which contains leaflets which covers a wide range of Incidents. If you wish to contact me for further advice or even a chat please call 101. This is also the number to call to report a non-emergency crime. If your life is in danger or a crime is being committed please call 999.

Surgery
My next Surgery will be and at the Pond view Café on **Friday 17th May** 10-10:30 am. I look forward to seeing you there.

Football
This year’s community football match between Kent Police and Otford football club will be on **Wednesday 22nd May** at the village recreation ground off the High Street. Kick-off is at 6pm spectators welcome. Many thanks to the Lodge Cafe shop and the Women’s Institute Club who are supporting

**Otford & District Historical Society**
The last meeting of the winter programme will take place on **Wednesday 15th May** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm when Robert Sackville-West will talk about ‘The Disinherited: the sad and secret story of five illegitimate Sackvilles brought up at Knole, the largest private house in England.’ Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.

**Otford Gardeners' Society**
The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 7th May** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Peter Cox from Eastcroft Roses will be talking about ‘Commercial Rose Growing’ Admission, which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors.

**Active Kids Vouchers**
Otford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are still collecting Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers 2013 which are available until the 22nd May 2013. They would be very grateful if you would kindly save any vouchers for them and drop them into their collecting box in the Parish Office.

**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 take place on **16th May** when they will hold their Annual General meeting plus a little retail therapy. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 458732 for more details

**Otford Evening WI**
Otford Evening WI will be meeting on Thursday 9th May in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. In particular this is the month when this year’s resolution on ‘The Decline of our High Street and Town Centre’s’ is discussed. Members do try to come. For more information, and to join please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

**Health Walk**
Go along and try the Health Walk which starts from Otford Car Park every Monday at 10.30am. The walks last normally about an hour. The walks are free and are organised by Sevenoaks District Council. There is no need to book.
Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild

The next meeting will take place in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 25th May**. There will be an all day workshop entitled ‘Wonderful Wired Dolls’ with Ray Slater. 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 Art 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 meeting will be on **16th May** when Tim Stimson will talk about ‘Atkinson Grimshaw - painter of moonlight’. John Atkinson Grimshaw was one of the few genuinely self-taught, working class artists to emerge during the most productive period of British art, the reign of Queen Victoria. Inspired by the success of the Pre-Raphaelites his meticulous rendering of landscapes lead to the development of his main subject, moonlight views. His range is much wider than is generally known and the story of his life in Leeds, Scarborough and London charts the relationship between an artist and his public. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

St Bartholomew’s Choir is Singing Evensong

St Bartholomew’s Choir are singing evensong at Peterborough Cathedral on **Saturday 18th May**. A Coach has been hired. We would love you to join us. Pick up at Otford pond. The cost is £24. Details and application form are at the Church and Parish Offices, and at the back of the Church. There are plenty of things to see and do at this historic Cathedral. The Cathedral coffee shop reputedly offers the best locally produced cakes. There are numerous eating establishments nearby, or bring a picnic to eat in the heavenly Cathedral grounds.

Otford Short Mat Bowls Club

Hannah Bladen, Sport England’s Regional Lead for the South East said 'If community Sports Clubs want to attract and retain members they need to be able to offer quality facilities for everyone.' The improvements to Otford Short Mat Bowls Club facilities will be welcomed by regular users and those who are new to Short Mat Bowls. Otford Short Mat Bowls Club is very grateful to Sport England who has kindly given them a grant to purchase an Electric Mat Rolling Machine which is proving to be a boon for all their members. The Club has been in existence for over 25 years, serving the local community both young and mature. The opportunity to try a new sport for the first time is often all a person needs to catch the sporting bug and so, if you have recently retired or are just looking for something different to add to life’s enjoyment then please contact the Hon Secretary, Barbara Taylor on barbarataylor@btinternet.com or Chairman, Doug Dickerson on sheddoug@otford.net or 01959 524183.

Citizens Advice Bureau

A Citizens Advice Bureau surgery takes place on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Otford Parish Council offices between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.
Buy it Baby! Baby and Children’s Fair with Nearly New Sale

Our Spring event on **Saturday 11th May** between 1pm and 3pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall will be bursting at the seams with nearly new (often brand new) nursery equipment, toys, books, prams, highchairs etc all at a fraction of the price you will pay in the shops! We also welcome some local activity groups who can give you the low down on what’s on locally for you and your little ones. Refreshments available, colouring for the kids, FREE photo shoots with Capon Photography and FREE info bags to all visitors. £1 entry per adult, children free. To book a stall or for more info - [www.buyitbaby.co.uk](http://www.buyitbaby.co.uk) or caroline@buyitbaby.co.uk

Community Hero's

The Sevenoaks Chronicle has launched a monthly community hero award, an accolade for someone in the community who has gone the extra mile and embodies the true community spirit of our area. They are looking to publicise the unsung hero's who make a difference and without whom the area would be a much poorer place. The award is afternoon tea at the Stag Theatre. If you know of anyone who deserves this award, then please contact the Sevenoaks Chronicle on 01273 2562921.

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.

**May**

1st - 'Sikhs and exiles’ - Michael Richardson / 8th - Games and report from Jolyn

15th - Israel - Anne Miller / 22nd - Lunch out at Spadework, Ightham

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church invites you to join them at the following events.

**Sunday 19th May** at 10.30 am- **Special Pentecost Service** to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Please come and join our celebration and learn more about this amazing event. For more details please call Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196

**Sunday 26th May** at 6.30 pm- **Wholeness & Healing service**

You are invited to join us for this reflective service where there will be the opportunity to request prayer for yourself or your loved ones. For more details please call Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196

**Saturday 1st June** 8.30 am- **Men’s Breakfast**

Gentlemen, you are invited to join us at our Men’s breakfast talk at Darenth Valley Golf Club. Come and enjoy a full English breakfast and listen to our invited speaker. The cost is just £9. To book your place please call Derek Baxter on 01959 523687

**Saturday 1st June** from 12.00 pm - **Iris Society Show and Christian Aid Lunch**

Please come and enjoy the display of Iris’s at this all day event to be held in conjunction with a Christian Aid lunch and sale of gifts and plants. Entrance free

For more details please contact Rosemary Pattullo on 01959 524914 or Chris Towers on 01959 523017
**The Kemsing Singers**

The Kemsing Singers concert entitled “Crossing Continents” will take place on **Saturday 18th May** at 7.30pm in St Edith Hall Kemsing. There will be exhilarating music from Africa with full percussion accompaniment. Also songs and choruses from jazz-inspired shows such as South Pacific, West Side Story and My Fair Lady. Tickets are from 9 Cleves Road Kemsing TN15 6RX or 01959 523752. Cost Adults £8.00, concessions £6.00, children £4.00.

**Hospice of Hope events**

On **Sunday 12th May**, one of ballet's brightest stars, Alina Cojocaru, will be performing at a charity Gala evening at Sadlers Wells Theatre in aid of Hospices of Hope. Alina dedicated her first gala to the Bucharest Hospice Appeal in May 2008 when she thrilled and delighted the audience with an exceptional programme. Her exquisite performances along with her stage partner Johan Kobborg and impressive guest dancers were a joy to watch. Five years later and Alina is back to help with the final stages of fundraising for the Bucharest Hospice which is currently under construction in Bucharest. She has promised an equally exciting programme and amongst world renowned guests, the exciting virtuoso violinist Charlie Siem will be performing on the night. Please book early to see an evening of outstanding dance and music that is Alina's personal tribute towards the new Bucharest hospice. Tickets for this unique show can be bought via Sadlers Wells website [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com).

On **Saturday 18th May** back by popular demand. Angus Morton, The Voice of Hope with Special Guest Justice Paul Agyei. Angus will once more perform all time favourites and songs from the musicals - he sang for the Queen at Windsor Castle for her 80th birthday. Justice Paul Agyei is a gospel pianist and a music instructor whose passion is to reach his audience’s soul and not just their ears with the sweetness of his music.

At St Peter’s Church, College Road, Hextable, Kent BR8 7RH starting at 7pm

Interval refreshments included, homemade cake with tea or coffee

£14 per ticket available from Wendy or Marion 01959 525110 [wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**St Bartholomew’s Church Fair**

St Bartholomew’s Church Fair will be taking place this year on **Saturday 22nd June** from 2pm.

Stalls will include: Books, Plants, Cakes, Crafts, White Elephant, raffle, unwanted gifts, bottles, toys, soft drinks, strawberries and cream and ices. Other attractions include children’s games and a bouncy castle. There will be a children's art competition with the theme ‘In the Jungle’. 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. Also there is a single rose competition judged by silent auction so why not bring along an entry on the day.

**Artist of the Month**

The artist for the months of May and June is Barbara Darby. Barbara says “I have enjoyed painting since my school days (a long time ago) and I have tried many mediums oil, acrylic, water pencils and watercolour and sometimes create a mixed media picture. I enjoy
experimenting. In this picture of a Norfolk beach in water colour, acrylic and modelling compound, I used my cake icing skills to ‘pipe’ the ropes and chains to give the picture a 3D effect before painting them.

**Planning**

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council in March. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application No.</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SE/13/00627</td>
<td>25 Broughton Road</td>
<td>The erection of a single and double storey extension to the side. Proposed single storey conservatory to the rear and first floor extension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/13/00687</td>
<td>15 Greenhill Road</td>
<td>The erection of detached dwelling with rooms in roof with roof lights to front, rear and side elevations, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/13/00739</td>
<td>56 Pilgrims Way East</td>
<td>Conversion of garage to habitable space, erection of two storey front extension, etc.</td>
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4b. Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application No.</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SE/12/02844</td>
<td>Chartlands, St Michael's Drive</td>
<td>Demolition of detached garage to facilitate the erection of single storey double detached garage, conversion of outbuilding. Allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/12/03360</td>
<td>27 High Street</td>
<td>Demolition of single storey annex, Erection of a single storey rear extension. Allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE12/00026</td>
<td>Hillway, Pilgrims Way East</td>
<td>Demolition of existing house and erection of new replacement dwelling. Refused</td>
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4c Appeals

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application No.</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APP/G2245/</td>
<td>Burfield, Pilgrims Way East</td>
<td>Erection of a side extension to existing dwelling to enable garage room, store, family room and utility room to be provided.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Chairman</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Edwards-Winser Oastbrook, Telston Lane 522503</td>
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<th>Councillors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas G. Cracknell 23 Warham Road 522325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary Evans 14 Tudor Crescent <a href="mailto:mary.a.evans@btinternet.com">mary.a.evans@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jackie Howe 33 Pilgrims Way West 525434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Knight 38 Warham Road 524488</td>
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</tbody>
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Parish Councillors Contact Details
Mrs. H. Jane Lawrey  
23 Tudor Crescent  
522360

Howard Leicester  
Albany, Shoreham Road  
howard_leicester@btconnect.com

Mrs. Charmian Marsh  
40 Greenhill Road  
522609

Jon Verrall  
24 Pilgrims Way East  
jon.verrall5@btinternet.com

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Ward  
Thymebank, Coombe Road  
522384

Martin J. Whitehead  
19 Coombe Road  
524088

**Your local Councils**

Kent County Council are responsible for:-

- Highways & pavements
- Blue Badge parking permits
- Bus passes for older and disabled people
- Countryside Management/Footpaths
- The dump (Household Waste Recycling Centres)
- Education
- Gritting Roads
- Libraries & archives
- Registration of births, marriages & deaths
- Social Services

To contact Kent on any of these issues call 08458 247 247 or visit: www.kent.gov.uk

Sevenoaks District Council are responsible for:-

- Animal Welfare
- Bottle Banks
- Building Control
- Car Parking and enforcement
- CCTV
- Community Safety
- Council tax & Business rate collection
- Council Tax support and Housing benefit
- Economic Development
- Elections
- Environmental health
- Food Safety
- Grants

To contact SDC on any of these issues call 01732 227000 or visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

**Rubbish and Garden Bags**

Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £13 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.

**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for items for the June Newsletter will be **Friday 24th May**. Thank you.